

Recession deepening despite sharp fall in inflation rate

Inflation is continuing to come down sharply, but the recession in British industry is getting worse. The inflation rate was 13 per cent in January, 2.1 percentage points down on the previous month, but manufacturing production has plunged 15 per cent in a year, one of the largest falls this century. Gas prices are expected to rise by about 15 per cent from April, and another 10 per cent in October.

Prices show annual rise of 13pc

Melvin Westlake

Price inflation has again cooled, providing the only bright spot for the Government in an otherwise bleak economic landscape.

Prices rose by 13 per cent during the 12 months to the end of January, according to official figures published yesterday, compared to a year-on-year increase of 15.1 per cent in December. This is the eighth consecutive monthly drop in the inflation rate.

Inflation has now fallen to its lowest level since June 1979, when Sir Geoffrey Howe added between three and four percentage points to the retail price index by raising VAT from 8 to 15 per cent on a range of goods. This was part of the Government's strategy to shift from direct to indirect taxation.

The underlying inflation rate, measured by the annualized change in prices over the last 12 months (excluding seasonal adjustments), has also shown a further decline. On this measure, the rate of price increases was down to 7.5 per cent, compared with 8 per cent in December, and a peak of more than 22 per cent in May.

The rise in the retail price index last month was 0.6 per cent, broadly the same as in recent months. One favourable influence was the fall in the mortgage interest rate

from 15 per cent to 14 per cent. This alone knocked about a percentage point off the index, although some home owners will not have seen their mortgage interest rates cut until this month.

The reduction of mortgage costs helped to offset price increases on other items, such as milk, some types of food, beer and coal.

The pace at which inflation has fallen seems to have surprised even Treasury ministers. As recently as November, the Treasury predicted that prices would rise by about 11 per cent between the fourth quarter of 1980 and the fourth quarter of 1981.

But if inflation continues to slow down in coming months as quickly as it has since the autumn, it could be as low as 11 per cent by the late spring, and into single figures long before the end of the year.

To some extent, this will depend on what measures the Chancellor announces in his Budget on March 10. If specific duties on alcohol, tobacco and petrol are raised in line with inflation during the previous 12 months, this would add 14 percentage points to the retail price index. It would involve 13p on a pint of beer, 55p on spirits, 61p on 20 cigarettes and 7p on a gallon of petrol.

The danger in the longer

term, however, is that the sterling exchange rate could start to weaken significantly, pushing up the cost of imported goods. The strength of the pound on the international money markets has been an important factor in holding back price increases, but some economists believe that the pound could fall later this year.

Another factor helping to brake price increases has been fierce competition in Britain's high streets. The prices of consumer goods has probably risen on average by less than 10 per cent in the past year, although the effect of this has been offset by price rises for the products of nationalized industries.

Their prices were 27 per cent up in the 12 months to January, compared with a year-on-year increase in December of 30 per cent.

Overall, inflation in Britain is only slightly above the average of other industrial countries which stands at about 12 per cent.

If the rate of United Kingdom price rises could be brought well down into single figures by the end of 1981, and particularly if it was below the average for other industrial countries, it would be possible for the Chancellor to take action to stimulate the economy in his 1982 Budget.

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'Times' sale completed with £12m payment

By Dan van der Vat

Mr Rupert Murdoch last night took over The Times, its three supplements and The Sunday Times with immediate effect for a down payment of £12m.

Ownership was transferred from the Thomson Organisation, a subsidiary of Thomson British Holdings, which is the principal subsidiary in Britain of the International Thomson Organisation of Toronto, Canada. The takeover was completed when representatives of News International, Mr Murdoch's British company, put their signatures to a mound of deeds and documents, which were also signed by Thomson lawyers and executives last night.

Mr Murdoch came to the Thomson headquarters in Stratford Place, off Oxford Street, London, last night to drink a celebratory glass of champagne with Mr Gordon Brunton, managing director and chief executive of Thomson British Holdings.

Mr Murdoch thus acquired the freehold of 200 Gray's Inn Road, The Sunday Times building previously owned by another Thomson subsidiary, the adjacent building of The Times is rented from a third party, and the whole of Times Newspapers Holdings which owns the five titles.

He has also taken responsibility for redundancy payments to the 563 employees of the papers who will resign voluntarily as part of his deal reached on Thursday with the printing union.

Thomsons will be entitled to 25 per cent of profits in excess of £5m made by Times Newspapers in any financial year, but only after the papers have accumulated a total net profit of £20m under Murdoch ownership.

That arrangement is open to cancellation in 1991. What it means is that Mr Murdoch has relieved Thomsons of all liabilities for Times Newspapers, which is estimated to have lost £13.5m last year and a total of £70m since Thomson set up the company 14 years ago.

The mechanics of the complicated takeover are in accordance with Mr Murdoch's established technique of making a relatively modest downpayment with the balance to be made up from future profits.

In this case such profits are a matter for speculation and within the ten-year period during which the arrangement will apply in its present form it is possible that the payments to be made by Mr Murdoch may not be substantial.

On paper Thomsons have sold assets with a putative value of £36m for £12m and a share in future profits. But they have also disposed of a growing drain on the overall profits of their British operation and can be said to have exorcised themselves with finesse.

Terms endorsed: Leaders of the largest union within Times Newspapers yesterday endorsed the terms agreed by their national officers with News International. (Our Labour Editor writes).

The executive council of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsop) unanimously supported the package negotiated by the union's general secretary, Mr Owen O'Brien, and other officials, for a three-year agreement on the five titles.



Back to camp: Former Zipra guerrillas returning to their camp in the township of Entumbane, near Bulawayo, after heavy fighting which started on Tuesday between Zipra and Zanu forces in and around Zimbabwe's second city. Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Minister Without Portfolio, who arrived in

Bulawayo on Thursday, said that steps would be taken to move both his Zipra supporters and Zanu men, who support Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, from Entumbane. Yesterday Bulawayo was returning to a semblance of normality as loyal national army troops moved round Entumbane collecting bodies. Test for Mr Nkomo, page 4

Mr Foot takes the fight to dissidents

By Michael Hatfield

Political Reporter

Mr Michael Foot, leader of the Labour Party, and some of his Shadow Cabinet colleagues, threatened by a breakaway centre party, set out last night to steady Labour's ranks.

While Mr Foot delivered a reply to the accusations of Mrs Shirley Williams, Mr Denis Healey, the deputy leader, spoke about the unifying forces inside the party and added: "We shall not be helped by a humbug from the faint hearts who are planning to desert us just when the battle is at its fiercest."

Mr Foot repudiated the charges of Mrs Williams that the party had changed its character over the past decade, that there was a new spirit of intolerance that gripped the party leadership, that there was a "rigid refusal to compromise on the part of those who disagree with her point of view" and that there had been an abandonment of the party's allegiance to parliamentary democracy.

He told a meeting in Nelson, Lancashire, that he had pleaded with Mrs Williams "for several hours" and "to stay in the party and exercise her full democratic rights. None of these charges, in my judgment, is borne out by the facts."

Mr Foot went back over the history of Labour's internal battle about the EEC, stating that Mrs Williams and her pro-EEC colleagues were in a minority. "Throughout the whole decade, she and her friends have never concealed their views or been required by Labour discipline to conceal their views."

Thanks to the prevailing spirit of tolerance, the party had held together. "I think it is not merely ungenerous, but a complete misconstruction of the facts that anyone should say that this case of the Common Market as an example of a refusal by the party to compromise in any way."

Mr Foot took up the allegations about the so-called entryism into the party of Trotskyist groups. He agreed that "there are some parts of the country where the Militant tendency conducts operations which are a pestilential nuisance to the Party as a whole."

"I hope Party members will

The centre in turmoil

Is British political life facing its greatest shake-up for 50 years?

Staff reporters of The Times have been talking to large numbers of voters in several parts of the country about their attitudes to the formation of the Council for Social Democracy by Mrs Shirley Williams and her colleagues, and the possibility that this will break the political mould.

Next week from Monday to Thursday we shall publish four articles discussing their reactions, and on Friday a final article will analyse those findings and, in particular, examine possible variations in regional attitudes.

Only one area called in for talks, the high-employment North Nottinghamshire coalfield, yesterday escaped the National Coal Board's axe. Elsewhere, union officials were told that pits must shut to bring the industry's output into line with falling demand caused by the recession.

In Kent, Mr Jack Collins, the union area secretary, led his team out of the meeting after hearing that Snowdown colliery, near Dover, one of the three pits left in the county, was to be closed with a loss of 960 jobs. About half the men would

be aware of what happens, and be on their guard against those who would seek to subvert the party for quite undemocratic reasons."

Mr Foot admitted that a few would leave the Labour Party, "but I believe it will be a few," and they would have to bear a very heavy responsibility at such a moment in the party's history. The vast majority, including the considerable numbers joining the party every week, would stay to help ensure that the greatest days of the Labour movement lay ahead.

Mr Roy Hattersley, opposition spokesman on home affairs, gave a warning in Nottingham that these were difficult days for the party "and we do our momentous service pretending otherwise."

The creation of a new social democratic party now seemed inevitable. "We need to build a party in which the narrow sectarianism of Militant and the intentionally divisive slogans of the Rank and File Mobilising Committee are rejected as wholly unworthy of the traditions of our movement."

"In some branches the spirit of mindless intolerance has taken over. To stop it from spreading we have to act now. The task is not beyond us. The real Labour Party is waiting to reassert itself."

MP resigns whip, page 2

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Talks on pit closures offered to miners

By Paul Routledge

Labour Editor

The Government last night made known its readiness to meet miners' leaders for talks on the future of the coal industry after the first swathe of pit closures involving 5,600 job losses was announced.

Officials of the National Union of Mineworkers were told at area level meetings that 10 pits must shut over the next year in South Wales, Kent and Durham. Alternative work would be available for a large proportion of the miners, but many would be made redundant.

New closure announcements will be made every day next week in the run-up to a special union national executive meeting called for February 19 to decide whether the men should be recommended to vote for a national strike in a secret ballot.

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Letters, page 15

Manufacturing slump one of the worst this century

Frances Williams

A sharp fall in manufacturing output during December, 1980 to 15 per cent, one of the worst slumps experienced by British manufacturing industry this century.

According to provisional government figures published yesterday, production in the manufacturing sector fell by 1.2 per cent in December.

Total industrial output, including mining, construction and the utilities, fell less than manufacturing alone in December by 0.6 per cent, but it was down nearly 1.2 per cent on a year earlier.

The volume of goods produced last year was back to its level since 1968. The continuing slide in production has serious implications for employment. There can be no hope of slowing down the slide level of jobless until industrial production stabilises.

The biggest falls in manufacturing employment have occurred in metal manufacturing, where 77,000 employees or 17

per cent of the total have lost their jobs. In textiles, about 65,000 employees have lost their jobs (16 per cent of the total) since the middle of 1979.

Another sharp increase in the numbers out of work is certain to be recorded this month. In the past, changes in unemployment have tended to follow about six months behind changes in output.

But, in the present slump, unemployment has risen much faster than might have been expected. Employment in the manufacturing industries has now fallen by 750,000 since the middle of 1979. This compares to the loss of 600,000 jobs in the previous recession in the two years to mid-1976.

Almost all industry groups suffered substantial falls in output last year. Production in metal manufacturing fell by a third between the fourth quarter of 1979 and the end of 1980, and textiles, leather and clothing fell by a fifth.

The only bright spots were chemicals, coal and petroleum products, where production was

slightly up in December (despite a fall of nearly 15 per cent in the fourth quarter compared to the same period in 1979); food, drink and tobacco, where output was 2 per cent up on the previous quarter; and mining and quarrying, where production was 7 per cent up in the last quarter of 1980 over the third, reflecting higher coal output and increased production of North Sea oil and gas.

The slump in output last year is principally the result of retailers and manufacturers attempting to run down stocks, which high interest rates have made expensive to finance. Stocks held by manufacturers are still, historically, at high levels and there is little sign that stockpiling has come to an end.

But in the coming year, lower investment, weaker export performance and higher imports, encouraged by the strong pound, are likely to take over from stockpiling as the most important factors depressing output, with no early end to the recession in prospect.

As my members go round people's houses they will get the reaction. The GMWU represents most of the corporation's 40,000 manual workers.

The union's views were supported by the National and Local Government Officers' Association, which represents most white-collar workers. Mr David Straker, national gas officer, said it was inevitable that the corporation and its members would be blamed for the increases.

Trade union leaders are sensitive on this issue because they are engaged in wage negotiations. They have been offered 9.9 per cent against a claim

for 23 per cent, and are anxious to ensure that their prices are not blamed on wage increases.

The scale of this year's gas price increases have been expected for some time. Ministers decided more than a year ago that domestic gas prices were unrealistically low and that in the three final years after 1980-81 they would have to rise by 10 per cent more than the rate of inflation.

Earlier this month, the Government also announced plans to cream £1,300m from the profits of British Gas over the next three years, in another move that has made the corporation staff unhappy.

Home gas prices expected to rise twice this year

John Huxley

British Gas is expected to announce next week that domestic prices will rise by about 15 per cent from April, with a further 10 per cent increase in October.

The increases, which reflect the Government's energy policy rather than the corporation's commercial needs, will be approved by the board of British Gas on Wednesday.

They have already prompted angry response from unions, especially those representing large numbers of the town-owned corporation's 40,000 employees.

April's increase will be the third in 12 months. In the same period last year domestic prices rose by 17 per cent and there was a further rise of 10 per cent. Electricity prices will also go up by 10 per cent this April.

Mr John Edmonds, national energy officer for the General and Municipal Workers' Union yesterday described the planned increases as despicable. He estimated that British Gas would report a profit for this year of more than £600m, compared with £425m last year.

"It is a policy of confidence trick," Mr Edmonds said. "The people who will get the blame will not be the Government. It will be the gas

industry. As my members go round people's houses they will get the reaction. The GMWU represents most of the corporation's 40,000 manual workers."

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Our hostages seized in Havana embassy

Havana, Feb 13.—Twenty-nine

thousand Cuban army soldiers seized 10 hostages today and threatened to kill the four if the police intervened.

The four captives are Señor Pérez Concha, the Ambassador, Señor Francisco Proano, a Counsellor, Señor Guillermo Sante Ramírez, the Second Secretary, and Señora Mercedes Siqueira, a Cuban administrative employee.

The group, armed with sub-machine-guns and hand grenades, refused to allow the ambassador to go outside the embassy to speak with a Cuban official. Señor Sante Ramírez told French-Press by telephone.

No shots were reported to have been fired but an armed Cuban guard stationed at the embassy entrance was injured in a scuffle.

A member of the group, Señor Rómulo Juan Delgado Ramírez, said in a telephone call that the group of 19 men, 10 women and six children arrived on foot at the embassy, the first floor of a small building in Havana.

Solidarity to give regime breathing space

Solidarity is apparently prepared to give the new Polish Government of General Jaruzelski the three months moratorium on strikes it has asked for the condition that it carries out its promises, and talks between the new administration and the unions bring results.

The French owners of the Talbot car company are being asked to reverse a delay for a year, their closure of the plant in Scotland. A group including unions and MPs is seeking a meeting with the head of the Peugeot-Citroën company.

Navy thinks big

The four submarines Britain is to build to carry the new Trident I missiles could be nearly half as large again as the Polaris vessels, according to evidence to the Commons Defence Committee. But that could push the cost beyond the £5,000m estimate.

Vandals hold up first Test match

The start of the first Test match between West Indies and England at Port of Spain was delayed for three hours after protestors damaged the tarpaulins covering the wicket allowing damp to seep through.

Bombs in Paris

Three bombs exploded in the Paris area, one seriously damaging the Italian tourist office and another destroying 15 parked cars at Orly Airport. The Corsican National Liberation Front claimed responsibility.

Spacewatch sought

There are more than 800 asteroids spinning through the solar system that pose a threat to earth—either by starting an accidental war or by damaging ecosystems—and scientists want them monitored.

Anger in Greece

King Constantine's brief return to Greece for the burial of his mother went off smoothly enough but the political controversy continued, with the Opposition party calling for the Government's resignation.

Education damaged by cuts, report says

The quality of education in many schools is being damaged by spending cuts and falling pupil numbers, according to a report by school inspectors.

Mr Neil Kinnock, opposition spokesman on education, immediately called for a full parliamentary debate.

BL dismissals: British Leyland Cars is to send notices of dismissal next week to white-collar staff.

Johannesburg: A deserter from an anti-Government guerrilla movement in Mozambique says it is being supplied with South African arms.

Delhi: The non-aligned nations finished their conference here by calling on Russia to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan.

Classified advertisements: Home and garden, page 12; Appointments, 12; personal, 12, 28; Postal shopping, 12; St Valentine's Day messages, 24-27.

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HOME NEWS

Linwood action group formed to press Talbot to reverse or postpone closure of its car plant

Unions, MPs and local councils are joining forces to ask the French owners of the Talbot car company to reverse, or at least delay for a year, the decision to close the Linwood plant in Scotland.

A group including representatives of the unions and the Scottish branch of the Confederation of British Industry said it was ready to meet M Jean-Paul Parayre, head of Peugeot-Citroën, "anytime, anywhere".

If the company will not meet them, they intend to ask the Foreign Office to press Peugeot-Citroën for a meeting.

That decision was made at a meeting in Glasgow yesterday of Linwood shop stewards, the Scottish TUC, local MPs, the Scottish Development Agency, the CBI and local and regional councillors.

Strathclyde Regional Council, which organized the meeting, estimates that the loss of the 4,800 jobs at Linwood could take unemployment to 40 per cent in Linwood and to 19 per cent in Paisley.

The council sent a letter message to Peugeot-Citroën when the closure was announced on Wednesday, seeking a meeting, but so far it has received no reply.

Mr Charles O'Halloran, convenor of the council, said yesterday: "We do not know if it will be successful, but while there is a glimmer of hope we owe it to the community and those who are going to be thrown on the scrap heap to do something about it."

The group's main aim is to persuade Mr Parayre to reverse the decision, or to delay it until June next year to provide time for new industry to be attracted to Linwood.

Mr James Milne, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, said after the meeting: "If Peugeot refuses to meet the delegation sent from here, they will be bloody lucky to give their cars away in this area, never mind sell them."

The Linwood workforce has pledged to fight the closure through established union procedures, using industrial action only if it becomes necessary. Representatives will meet national union officials in Glasgow on Sunday.

Dr George Mathewson, chief executive of the Scottish Development Agency said there could be no quick solution to the crisis.

The agency is the Government's principal arm in Scotland for job creation and

industrial revival. In industrial areas affected by sudden large-scale unemployment, the agency can send task forces to develop a number of small-scale industrial and commercial units, or has declared an area an enterprise zone.

The agency said: "The area is in no sense a totally black zone for industry. A few miles away from Linwood the National Semiconductor plant, which is American-controlled, is undergoing a £45m expansion and plans to increase the workforce to 2,000."

The agency feels that there are grounds for optimism over the Linwood area because of the success of its task force, the Clydebank enterprise zone and urban renewal projects.

The former Singer sewing machine works in Clydebank are being converted into factory units, some of which have been taken, creating 300 jobs. A waiting list is growing for other factory space.

Urban renewal projects have generated more than 3,000 jobs in the east of Glasgow, many of them with local companies expanding business.

They show that industry can be developed and attracted to the west of Scotland, but the process takes time.

Cost of Trident-1 package could rise well above £5,000m estimate Navy may opt for bigger missile submarines

By Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

The four submarines Britain will build to carry the Trident-1, its next strategic deterrent, could be nearly half as large again as the existing boats armed with Polaris missiles, which Trident will replace in the 1990s.

But that would raise the cost of the missile package to well above the £5,000m that the Government estimated last year, and would fuel the present debate over defence priorities.

The Royal Navy, it was learnt yesterday, expects to decide the size of the new submarines this summer, after a study which is being carried out on its behalf by the United States.

The options open to the Ministry of Defence, which is making its own study of how many missiles the submarines should

carry, are outlined by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, Controller of the Navy, in evidence to the House of Commons Defence Committee, which has just been published.

The committee expects to publish a report on the Government's strategic nuclear weapons policy in the late spring, but is releasing all the evidence now before the Commons debates the subject early in March.

Last year's official estimate of £5,000m over 15 years was based on a force of four submarines, comparable in size to the 8,600-ton Resolution class which now carries Polaris. Each would be armed with 16 of the American Trident-1 missiles.

Admiral Fieldhouse said how the Americans, who are building the 19,000-ton

Ohio class boats to carry their own force of Tridents, are helping to advise the Ministry of Defence on whether Britain too should opt for a bigger vessel.

That would not necessarily mean designing a British submarine as large as the Ohio. But by extending the length to 500 feet and the diameter of the missile compartment from 30 feet to 40 feet (like the Ohio) it would be possible to build a submarine capable of carrying the Ohio's complement of 24 Trident missiles instead of 16.

Parallel studies are also in hand at the Ministry on how many missiles Britain should have at sea at any one time.

The Government has retained the option to add a fifth submarine, at an extra cost of £600m. But that is unlikely, given the squeeze on the de-

fence budget. By raising the number of missiles in each submarine, however, the Government could still put more Tridents to sea—if it is prepared to meet the cost.

Admiral Fieldhouse was also closely questioned by MPs on the effect of building the new Trident boats on the Navy's building programme for hunter-killer nuclear submarines, as there is now only one shipyard, Vickers, at Barrow-in-Furness, capable of building nuclear submarines of any kind.

He acknowledged that if both programmes were to be maintained at the planned rate, a similar facility would have to be reactivated at Cammell Laird, at an estimated cost of £20m.

House of Commons Defence Committee, Strategic Nuclear Weapons Policy, HMSO (C3).

Mr Mike Thomas quits the PLP

From Our Correspondent
Newcastle upon Tyne

Mr Mike Thomas, Labour MP for Newcastle upon Tyne, East, last night broke with the Parliamentary Party to devote his energies to the Council for Social Democracy. He will no longer take the party whip.

He told his annual constituency meeting that he would not be putting his name forward as a candidate in the next election.

He said: "I have no quarrel with you. My profound affection is with the Labour Party nationally. You will all have been aware of the increasing difficulty I have had in accepting present trends within the party."

"I must be prepared to advance the policies of the party and accept the constitution of the party. I am continuing as a Labour MP, but I cannot believe that after the changes that have been made I can longer honourably do so."

Mr Thomas said it was clear from his correspondence that his constituents wished him to continue as their MP until the end of this Parliament.

"I intend to resign the Labour whip after consultation with my parliamentary colleagues. I have resigned various offices I held within the Parliamentary Labour Party as I will play no further part in its proceedings."

"I intend now to devote my energies to furthering the objectives of the Limehouse Social Democracy."

Mr Thomas, aged 36, who has been an MP for six years, recently sent 30,000 letters to constituents seeking views on his leaving for the Council for Social Democracy. He received 1,000 replies. Of the first 500 to one were in favour of his moderate stand, he said.

After the meeting a constituency party statement said that Mr Thomas should resign his seat to allow a by-election. Mr Thomas said later that would be leaving the party when he resigned the whip.

"It will be logical for me to leave the party at that point. My own view is that the party is too long before a party is formed." He added that he felt very sad.

Hull heritage neglected, report says

By John Young
Planning Reporter

The day after the Department of the Environment agreed to the demolition of a group of eighteenth century buildings in Hull to make way for new law courts, its Property Services Agency announced that no start would be made on the new buildings before 1985, according to a report by Save Britain's Heritage, the conservation group.

The report, the second in a series on northern towns, accuses the council of neglecting its heritage of historic streets and buildings "to a degree remarkable even among British towns".

There had recently been a change in attitudes, but the time had not yet come when the city could be said to be safe from unnecessary demolition and redevelopment. "The local authority now has some vision of the historic Hull, but it is still to some extent a narrow and blinkered vision."

The old area, revitalized, ought to be seen as an important asset. Hull: Gateway to the North or End of the Line, Save Britain's Heritage, 3 Park Square West, London, NW1. (75p.)

Dole money 'could help build homes'

By Our Planning Reporter

Up to 90,000 of the 120,000 building workers who are jobless in the past year could be given work if the Government used their unemployment money to pay them to build houses instead, Mr Gerald Kaufman, Opposition spokesman for the Environment, said last night.

Addressing a Labour Party meeting in Blackpool, he said: "During the past year alone, more than 120,000 building workers have been thrown out of work as a result of the Government's disastrous policy of cutting money for house building by more than half since Labour left office."

"At a very conservative estimate, the cost to the Exchequer of keeping these additional men out of work comes to at least £600m. While that £600m would not put all the extra unemployed back to work, most of them would be given jobs, he said. In addition, the community would gain extra assets instead of pouring out hundreds of millions of pounds non-productively."

BL to begin dismissal of white-collar staff

By Donald MacIntyre
Labour Reporter

British Leyland Cars is to begin sending dismissal notices next week to 900 white-collar staff whose jobs they have failed to cut through voluntary redundancy.

The move comes after negotiations between the company and white-collar unions failed to resolve the issue. The company decided to cut 4,250 jobs in all last year.

BL Cars postponed its deadline for achieving the cuts after moves towards limited industrial action late last autumn. These were in response to management warnings that compulsory redundancies would have to be made if enough volunteers did not come forward.

Since the breakdown of talks the unions have agreed a policy of overtime bans, refusal to cover jobs lost under the programme and refusal to handle design and other work contracted to other companies. The company indicated last night that it had intended to shelve the dismissals for a further three weeks in the hope that more volunteers would

come forward, but in view of the sanctions it had decided not to.

In contrast to the rapid reduction of manual workers' jobs in the company, BL has had real difficulties in cutting white-collar staff by the levels management judged necessary.

It is understood that white-collar workers in the Cowley body plant and 18 of the company's other 33 plants had refused to take part in the industrial action.

At Longbridge, the biggest plant where the Mini-Metro is produced, and at the Cowley assembly plant, Jaguar and Rover, at Solihull, white-collar employees had supported the call.

Although the company emphasized last night that production had not been materially affected it has evidently decided to take tough action in the face of the potentially cumulative effect of limited industrial action.

Indications were that about half the 900 staff now earmarked for redundancy would be sent dismissal notices by the end of next week.



The Queen at Hampton, west London, yesterday, after opening the two millionth home built under the National House Building Council protection scheme. She is followed by Sir Peter Trench, chairman.

Minister denies Paisley charges

From David Nicholson-Lord
Belfast

Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, yesterday denied the Rev Ian Paisley's allegations about the conduct of the Army on the night Sir Norman Stronge, former Speaker in the Stormont Parliament, and his son, James, were killed by the Provisional IRA.

Mr Atkins described as totally untrue Mr Paisley's claim, made in the Commons on Thursday, that an army helicopter had to be recalled for lack of fuel and an army patrol was being "wined and dined" at a republican house.

Mr Atkins's denial was made to journalists at an impromptu ceremony in Belfast. He said he had made inquiries about the allegations and there was no substance in them. He also denied that an army officer had been disciplined in connection with the incident.

The only people who profited from such unsubstantiated allegations, he said, were the terrorists and their friends. It appeared yesterday that Mr Paisley's claims were based on reports of police-army radio communications heard by

people around the South Tyrone border village of Tynan, where the Stronges lived.

The Rev Thomas Taylor, Rector of Tynan and a friend of the Stronges, said there were reports of a helicopter pilot returning to base because he had run out of fuel and a pilot supposedly searching the wrong area, saying he could not read a map because he had no torch.

Another version of Mr Paisley's "wining and dining" claim is that an army patrol was given a cup of tea in a house that was apparently not republican.

Last night Mr Paisley marched at the head of a column of "loyalists" through Omagh, Co Tyrone, in the first of his rallies to counter what he regards as "the gradual process of all-Ireland integration."

He claimed that there were 10,000 in the rally, but the police put the numbers at about 2,000. Dublin contract: After all the shenanigans over Mrs Margaret Thatcher's meeting with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, the suggestion has been made that Lord Carrington, the Foreign Secretary, might be taking a more active part in the new contacts arranged between the two countries (our Diplomatic Correspondent writes).

All such speculation, minister or otherwise, is wrong, it was authoritatively stated yesterday. Lord Carrington is not taking any more active part than he did in the affairs of Ireland before the Dublin summit, the Foreign Office said. That means that his main concern remains Common Market matters.

The Foreign Office does, however, play a direct part in the contacts set up at the Dublin meeting. As the committee of ministers commissioned joint studies covering a range of issues, including possible new institutional structures.

Responsibility for pursuing those studies lies with the Cabinet Office. The Foreign Office obviously plays a part in that, notably on the last item of encouragement, mutual understanding, but not exclusively so. As with so many questions concerning Ulster, speculation that Lord Carrington is entering the scene to play a new role seems to be all smoke and no fire.

Embassy siege ties may get collectors in knots

By Stewart Tiedler
Crime Reporter

The collectors seeking one of the special designs produced for policemen involved in the Iranian Embassy siege last year may find some confusion. There is not one but two.

One is the official design, as described in *The Times* yesterday, and the other an unofficial one, produced within a few weeks of the end of the siege last May. (The conflict between the two designs is regarded as having caused little, delicate friction in police ranks.)

The official design, being recorded at the College of Arms, consists of dark blue, light blue and grey stripes with a coat of arms representing a prince's coronet above a six-bar gate. Dark blue stands for the Metropolitan Police, light blue for the Special Air Service Regiment, and grey for Home Office civil servants who deal with anti-terrorist measures.

The coronet normally used by the younger prince of the Royal Family, and the gate represents

Union says many NHS beds for old people closed

By Nicholas Timmins

About 4,000 geriatric beds in the National Health Service have closed, or have been scheduled for closure, in the 15 months to September, 1980, the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse) claimed yesterday.

The figures, published in the union's journal, are made up of 3,000 geriatric beds and about 1,000 pre-conventual beds which have been closed. The calculations do not appear, however, to take account of any replacement beds provided by health authorities, although the union claims that in many cases nothing has been proposed to replace closed beds.

Mr Albert Spanswick, general secretary of Cohse, has appealed to the union's branches to fight policies which, it is claimed, are leading to the systematic dismantling of the health and supporting community services for the elderly.

The union's journal claims that health authorities are imposing cuts and restrictions on spending are affecting the elderly.

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FA to investigate alleged racist recruitment

By Richard Ford

The Football Association is to investigate allegations that racist groups are recruiting members from among young football supporters on the terraces.

At a meeting yesterday representatives of the Commission for Racial Equality told the association of their fears that the National Front and British Movement were operating at various clubs in England. Mr David Lane, chairman of the commission, said they had been trying to recruit members from among football supporters in east London.

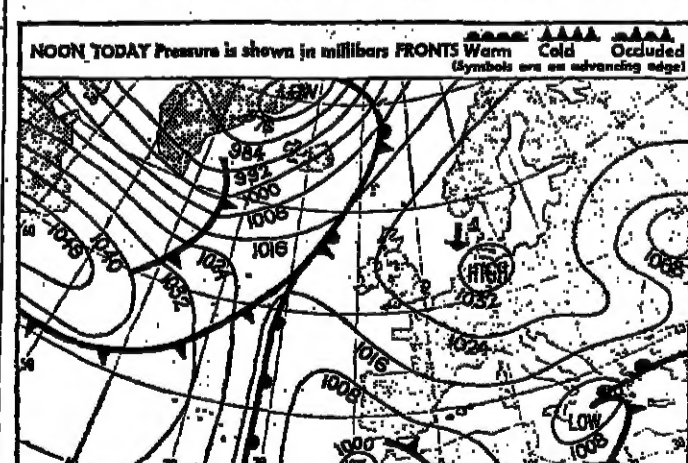
During the discussions at the FA headquarters in London, the activities of right-wing groups on the terraces or outside clubs including West Ham, Arsenal, Millwall, Leeds, Manchester United and Nottingham Forest were brought to the attention of Sir Harold Thompson, chairman of the FA, and Mr Edgar Croker, secretary.

The alleged activities of Right-wing groups which have alarmed the commission include the appearance at some grounds of young people dressed in military-style uniforms displaying Nazi badges, the selling of Right-wing newspapers outside the gates, and the chanting by supporters of racist slogans, including "I hate Yids", at some London grounds.

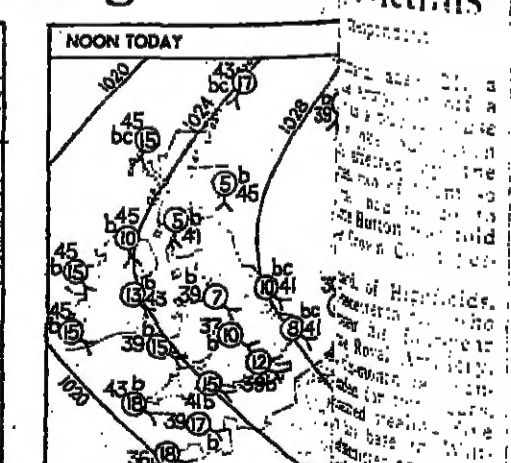
The commission praised the association and clubs for their positive attempts to encourage coloured players. A spokesman said: "The FA and clubs have done a lot to promote equality and encourage all people to develop their potential, but we wanted to bring to their attention the problem that does exist at certain clubs from extremists who use the terraces for their own ends."

After the hour-long meeting the association promised to investigate the matters raised by the commission and "take any action within its power," if needed, after the inquiry.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today		Tomorrow	
	Sun rises: 5:44 am Moon sets: 3:56 am		Sun sets: 5:34 pm Moon rises: 12:42 pm
Full moon: February 18.		Full moon: February 18.	
Lighting up: 5:44 pm to 6:45 am.		Lighting up: 5:46 pm to 6:43 am.	
High water: London Bridge, 9.21 am, 6.30 pm, 6.30 pm, 6.30 pm.		High water: London Bridge, 10.43 am, 6.31m, 11:26 pm, 6.30m.	
Avonmouth, 2.25 am, 10.10m, 5.06m, 1.27 pm.		Avonmouth, 3:55 am, 10.6m, 4.43 pm, 11.1m.	
Dover, 6.35 am, 5.06m, 1.27 pm, 5.06m.		Dover, 7:59 am, 5.6m, 4.43 pm, 5.7m.	
Hull, 1.33 am, 6.40 am, 2.22 pm, 6.20 pm.		Hull, 3:03 am, 5.6m, 4.43 pm, 5.7m.	
Liverpool, 7.04 am, 7.70 pm, 7.42 pm, 7.30 pm.		Liverpool, 8:23 am, 5.6m, 4.43 pm, 5.7m.	
1 ft=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808 ft.		1 ft=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808 ft.	



Sun rises: 5:46 pm to 6:43 am
 Sun sets: 5:16 pm
 Moon rises: 4:57 am
 Moon sets: 1:36 pm
 Full moon: February 18.
 Lighting up: 5:46 pm to 6:43 am
 High water: London Bridge, 10.43 am, 6.30 pm, 6.30 pm, 6.30 pm
 Low water: 10.10 am, 10.10 am, 10.10 am
 Avonmouth: 2.25 am, 10.10 am, 5.06 pm, 1.27 pm
 1 ft=0.3048m. 1m=3.2808 ft.

Sea passages: S North's
 Straits of Dover, English Channel
 (E): Wind E, moderate or fresh
 sea slight or moderate.

St George's Channel Wind S
 SE, moderate or fresh; sea slight
 or moderate.

Irish Sea: Wind S, moderate
 sea slight.

Your regular
 companion. His
 presence is the
 most comfortable.

Leisure: L
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Setback for actress in noise action

Miss Diane Hart, an actress, who claims that noise from building work on a film Islamic cultural centre in Kensington had "driven her to drink, pills and finally put her in hospital", suffered a setback in her legal action against the owners in the Court of Appeal yesterday.

The court allowed in part an appeal by the Associated Regional and University Students' Union against an order restricting the hours during which work at the centre, on the old National Theatre site in Cromwell Gardens, opposite Miss Hart's home in Thurle Place, could be carried out.

Last month, Miss Hart, aged 54, was granted a temporary High Court injunction restricting building operations to between 8 am and 4.30 pm, on Monday to Friday and 9 am to noon on Saturdays.

The court yesterday extended the hours for building and loading and unloading of materials, to 6 pm on Monday to Friday and 1 pm on Saturday.

The injunction will be effective pending full hearing of Miss Hart's action against the foundation.

Broadcasting staff unions to get pay offer soon

After preliminary wage talks yesterday, the BBC told unions representing about 28,000 staff that a pay offer was being made.

The unions are understood to be seeking an increase of about 15 per cent, and the BBC to be offering about 9.5 per cent. The present agreement expires on March 31.

Last year's increase was 15 per cent, raising the BBC's wages bill of £190m by £28.5m. The corporation is more than halfway through a programme of economies designed to save £130m over two years. It is hoping for a £16 increase in the colour licence fee, raising it to £50, to last for up to three years from next November.

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BBC departments' earnings to be reviewed

By Ken Gosling

A working party has been set up to examine the revenue-earning potential of three departments in the BBC's External Services: transcription services, English by radio and television, and overseas regional services.

It will examine how their earning capacity can be increased and determine to what extent a combination of all or part of those services could provide a common economic base with a view to making them together self-financing.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office had a confidential memorandum recently, designed to emphasize external services' role in the world broadcasting scene. It put the case for maintaining the large amount of cultural programming put out, and charge for, unlike countries that keep up a free and ceaseless bombardment of their output.

The BBC is the world's largest international distributor of radio programmes. The subscription charges can vary according to the subscriber's ability to pay, which means that Third World broadcasters need to pay little.

Mr Alan Jones, general manager of the transcription services, says: "It may make us sound like Boy Scouts, but we do this because we believe in it; we may sound a bunch of stupid altruists, but it is true all the same."

What it comes down to, Mr Jones says, is whether the Government accepts that the export of culture is worth while. In financial terms, the transcription services earn £400,000 a year; but a more vital statistic in his opinion is, for example, the fact that most of Britain's operatic and instrumental works first reached audiences throughout the world because transcription services' engineers were at the Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, with their recording van and microphones.

They still make their own recordings at all kinds of festivals and they are regulars at the Proms each year.

Mr Jones basically is to select from Radios 1, 2, 3 and 4 and the World Service the programmes most likely to attract buyers in other countries—and the ones most likely to reflect favourably on British broadcasting and, by extension,

Britain in the world", Mr Jones says.

The first sales were made in 1952 when 12 records were sent out to what were then called "the major imperial stations". Seven years later the Government decreed that the sale of programmes, which the Americans and Germans were doing, was politically important.

In 1979, the services sold 24,000 hours of broadcasting space. The present growth area is study tapes, going out to educational institutions outside Britain.

Chess contest begins

William Hartston, the international master, and John Nunn, the grandmaster, drew in the first of six games to contest the British chess title at the RAC Club in Pall Mall, London, yesterday. They play the second game today.

HOME NEWS

Cuts and falling pupil numbers are damaging quality of education, school inspectors say

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Evidence that the cuts in local spending on schools and falling pupil numbers are damaging the quality of education in many areas was given yesterday in a draft report by the schools' HMI Inspectorate.

Mr Neil Kinnock, Opposition spokesman on education, immediately accused education ministers of "malice and cynical complacency". The report had provided the most damning and detailed evidence yet of the cuts "hacked into the very bone marrow" of provisions for schools. He demanded a full parliamentary debate on the report.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said he recognized that cuts in expenditure and falling pupil rolls were bound to have some impact on the education service "but this was not meant that the fabric of education was disintegrating, it is about disintegration".

The report made it clear that many respects and in many cases the quality of the service served continued to be satisfactory, he said. There was no one to be complacent, however, he would be discussing the report with the local authorities when they next met.

The report, which will be published in 30 days in its final version, is the result of school inspectors' visits to more than 600 schools and colleges in the 96 English local education authorities during last autumn.

It shows a patchy and largely deteriorating state of affairs, with widening disparities between authorities and between individual schools.

The report emphasizes that it was often impossible to disentangle the results of spending cuts and inflation from the effects of the falling number of pupils.

The HMI gives a warning that the damage observed so far might be more important as symptomatic of the future. What now look like limited anxieties could become major problems, unless positive action to counter them can be built into policies.

In most authorities the pupil-teacher ratios remained little changed, though about 10,000 teaching jobs had been shed over the previous year. There had been no enforced redundancies but the alternatives of natural wastage, early retirement, voluntary redeployment and unfilled vacancies often made it difficult for schools to cover the curriculum, the report says.

Staffing was deemed satisfactory in most schools, but in one sixth of primary and one fifth of secondary schools there was evidence of teachers teaching subjects for which they were inadequately qualified, of large teaching groups, and of classes of mixed ages.

Special provision for the gifted and able pupils had been particularly badly hit.

In many schools special subjects had to be restricted or

dropped altogether. The most vulnerable appeared to be foreign languages, some of the humanities, music, swimming, instrumental music, and craft, design and technology.

In nearly four fifths of authorities the purchasing power of per capita funding for books, materials and equipment had been reduced. Equipment was judged unsatisfactory in about a third of authorities.

Many schools relied increasingly on contributions from parents to provide, for example, new books and teaching material and equipment.

About two thirds of authorities had cut provision of non-teaching staff such as classroom ancillaries, technicians, library assistants, clerical staff, and foreign language assistants; and specialist advisers had been cut in about a third.

Head teachers were doing more teaching to counteract some of the effects of the cuts. Some secondary teachers were teaching 40 out of 40 periods a week. The HMI's visits had given them a strong impression of professional commitment and resourcefulness, the report says.

Nevertheless, there is evidence that teachers' morale has been adversely affected in many schools. Its weakening, if it became widespread, would pose a major problem in the effort to maintain present standards, let alone improve them.

Where possible, local authorities had chosen to let the redecoration of buildings and other non-teaching costs bear the main burden of cuts.

Council in 'rail village' dispute

By John Young
Planning Reporter

An application by a council to buy his home has provoked concern about the future of the historic railway village at Swindon, Wiltshire.

The case is of some national significance in that it raises the question of whether the "right to buy" provision enshrined in the Housing Act, 1980, can be reconciled with the preservation of the architectural unity of group of buildings.

Thamesdown council has asked Mr Michael Heseltine, secretary of State for the Environment, to address its next meeting on February 26 on its intentions for the village, even while its housing committee has voted to break the law taking no action on the tenant's application.

Although the tenant has apparently given no indication he intends to alter the appearance of his home, the council is concerned that selling buildings in conservation areas will open the way to haphazard changes and additions.

"We have no objection in principle to selling certain types of houses, and have been so for years", Mr James Aspers, leader of the council, said yesterday.

"But we are digging our heels in over the Railway Village. Selling individual properties is the thin end of a wedge which could eventually undermine its architectural and environmental integrity."

The village was designed by architect Digby Wyatt, the architect of Paddington station.

Minister changes rules for teachers' pay arbitration

By Our Education Correspondent

The Government has changed the rules under which teachers' pay claims go to arbitration, despite the unanimous opposition of the teachers' unions and protests from the metropolitan authorities.

Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said in the Commons yesterday that after careful consideration he had used his powers under the Remuneration of Teachers Act, 1965, to provide for arbitration only by the agreement both of unions and employers.

The change took effect from Thursday. The first full meeting of the new arbitration panel of the National Union of Teachers, the national negotiating body on teachers' and lecturers' pay in England and Wales, is next Wednesday.

The Conservative-controlled Association of County Councils had urged the change, arguing that the old arrangements under which either side could

opt unilaterally for arbitration, operated in favour of the unions and made meaningful negotiations impossible.

However, the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, which is Labour-controlled, believes that it could soon be to the employers' advantage to be able to go to arbitration, over conditions of service, for example.

The Government's change would make it possible for one side to block arbitration.

Mr Tom Cawcutt, secretary of the association, said: "To make this change just as we are beginning what is clearly going to be a difficult pay negotiation is entirely reprehensible."

The response of the National Union of Teachers, which has campaigned vigorously against the change, was muted.

Mr Douglas McAvey, deputy general secretary, said that the change was "contrary to good industrial relations and could increase the possibility of disruption in schools", although he did add that he was "bitterly disappointed".

Dairy chief says EEC food 'tax' should end

By Hugh Clayton
Agriculture Correspondent

Prices of all butter and cheese would fall in Britain if the Government cut the EEC "tax on food", Mr Brian Joyce, managing director of the Irish Dairy Board, said in London yesterday.

He said Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was mistaken in his belief that there would be no price cuts.

Mr Joyce said that if the "tax" were to be eliminated by a full revaluation of the Green pound, the price in Britain of Irish Kerrygold butter would fall quickly by 7p a 250gm packet from its present level of more than 40p.

"The whole market for butter and cheese would go down", he said. "The market is really competitive."

The "tax", officially termed a positive monetary compensatory amount, is used by the Government to protect British farmers against cheap imports.

Mr Joyce's board is a statutory agency which handles all exports of dairy produce from the Irish Republic. He is also chairman of Adams Foods, of Leek, Staffordshire, which markets Irish butter and cheese in Britain.

"I am paying a tax of 18 per cent to put butter into Britain", he said. He believed that British butter consumption would increase by a tenth in a year if the "tax" was removed.

Sea worms cause £1.7m damage to rail viaduct

Barmouth viaduct, the half-mile long rail link across the Mawddach estuary in mid-Wales, will cost £1.7m to repair and protect it from ship worms and gribbles, British Rail said yesterday.

The viaduct, which is 114 years old, has been attacked by the creatures and has been closed since last October.

British Rail said it was to spend £300,000 in addition to £200,000 for a full engineering investigation so that the line could be reopened for about six months on May 23, in time for the summer holiday season.

"After that", Mr Hugh Jenkins, British Rail's divisional manager, said at a press conference at Maentwrog yesterday, "we need to find a further £1.7m to make a permanent job of repairing and protecting the structure."

Talks are being sought with the Department of Transport and the Welsh Office to see who will pay.

The viaduct normally carries about nine trains a day in each direction. Since it was closed last autumn travellers have been diverted around the estuary by a special bus service.

The danger to the structure was discovered during routine maintenance last year, when it was found that the gribble worm, a form of sea louse, was attacking the exterior of wooden piles. The ship worm had attacked the interior, and was still active.

Ex-gunner to pay compensation to CS gas victims

By Our Correspondent
Boucester

Colin Pritchard, aged 31, a tank in the Army, set off a gas pellet in a public house doorway for a joke, but seven people were affected by the fumes, two of them so badly they had to go to hospital, Judge Hutton was told Gloucester Crown Court yesterday.

Mr Pritchard, of Highfields, Straley, Gloucestershire, who is now ended his four-year term with the Royal Artillery, is given a six-month jail sentence, suspended for two years, for he admitted stealing five fuses from his base in Wiltshire and administering poison three people.

He asked for four similar fuses to be considered. He is ordered to pay three of the claims £120 in compensation.

Life and leisure: Local history societies are spreading fast Growing urge to catch up with the past

By Cyril Bainbridge

Thousands of people, singly in groups, are spending their spare time poring over old maps and documents in the quest for knowledge about the history of the areas they live in and the people who lived there.

The study of man's past in relation to his locality, otherwise local history, is a pastime enjoying the leisure of rapidly increasing numbers of people.

Interest has been further fuelled through the formation, because of attacks on, of civic societies and conservation groups. Local history, besides its value as an entertaining pastime, can thus be said to contribute to the betterment of life.

Enthusiasts vary in the extent of their involvement: some merely pay their annual subscription to a local history society and attend its periodic

lectures, while others take photographs and make other records of changes in their locality. Some announce their detailed findings in publications of varying quality and interest.

There are now almost a thousand local history societies listed, many of which were first set up in the 1930s, when enthusiasm among adult amateurs began to manifest itself. They have since joined the County Local History Committees, the first of which was inaugurated in Lincolnshire in 1930.

Local historians reported a remarkable growth of interest after the last war and in 1948 a national forum was provided through the setting up of the Standing Conference for Local History. That body decided in 1977 that the stage had been reached in the development of local history for an independent committee to assess the pattern of interest, activity and study.

One of the committee's main conclusions was the need for

a strong, independent national organization, soundly based financially, for local history in England and Wales.

Miss Bessie Miller, secretary of the standing conference, said: "We are now gradually working towards that end and hope to have such an organization next year."

A distinctive characteristic of local history is its amateur recreational tradition. Besides the thousands whose interest is nurtured and stimulated through organized local history societies there is a substantial but indefinable number of "lone rangers".

It is a subject in which the professional and the amateur can work closely together. Much activity also takes place in Workers' Educational Association classes in local history, on courses in university extra-mural departments and through surveys conducted by organizations such as the Women's Institute and Scout associations.

Some of these bodies have

made an invaluable contribution to the study of an area and their findings have been deposited for reference in county record offices, the staffs of which, along with those of museums and public libraries, guide the local historian in his labours.

Many public libraries have responded to the increasing interest in the subject by organizing local history sections staffed by a new breed of assistant, local history librarians.

The leadership and enthusiasm in many local history groups stem not from old-established local families but from newcomers.

Local historians feel a strong urge to publish the results of their researches. Many unfortunately merely record the masses of facts they have assembled, ignoring the human aspects that make local history so fascinating. People are naturally curious about people, which accounts for local history becoming so popular.



Teenagers paid by the Manpower Services Commission clearing land in a wooded valley on the royal estate at Sandringham, Norfolk, for visitors to the park, which is open to the public.

In brief

Ships sail again after five weeks

Ships held up by the seamen's dispute in the port of Hull began to sail again yesterday after the agreement by both sides late on Thursday night to put the union's overtime claim to arbitration.

The General Council of British Shipping said about 50 of the 233 ships halted by the dispute had already set sail by last night. Meanwhile both sides are considering names of proposed candidates to chair the arbitration panel of three set up under the auspices of the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

Man died after night on barbed wire

Mr George Purdy, aged 75, a retired miner, of Hucksall, Nottinghamshire, died from exposure after spending a night entangled in a barbed wire fence, an inquest at Nottingham was told yesterday. A misadventure verdict was recorded.

Boxer on taxi charge

Christopher Finnegan, aged 36, former British and European light-heavyweight boxing champion, was remanded on bail until March 13 by magistrates at Uxbridge, London, yesterday, charged with making off without paying £9.80 after a taxi ride.

Newspaper to alter size

The Liverpool Daily Post, the provincial morning broadsheet newspaper circulating on Merseyside and in North Wales, is to halve its page size in the spring in an attempt to arrest falling circulation and increase revenue. The circulation, which in 1972 was 100,000, is down to about 70,000.

Dutch skippers fined

Two Dutch trawler skippers, Cornelius Boerson and Wilhelmus Boom, were each fined £1,079 by Grimsby magistrates yesterday for using illegal nets in the North Sea. Their nets, valued at £1,000 each, were confiscated.

Airline man for trial

Hosni Esad Farhat, aged 34, a Libyan Arab Airlines worker, was sent in custody for trial at Winchester Crown Court by Portsmouth magistrates yesterday, charged with the attempted murder of four people.

Medieval gate found

The medieval south gate of Gloucester has been discovered accidentally by workmen digging up a road. It was almost destroyed during the Civil War siege of Gloucester and its position was not known.

Ship saved from rocks

A large Egyptian factory ship dragged her anchor off Falmouth, Cornwall, yesterday. Force nine gusts threatened to blow her on to rocks but tugs towed her to safety.

Humberside expected to cut rate by 6p

From Our Correspondent
Hull

A county precept rate reduction of 6p to 95p in the pound was recommended by Humberside County Council's policy committee yesterday.

It represents a 6 per cent decrease and is a saving of £8.70 for the average household.

The district rate will have to increase by more than 40 per cent before the average domestic rate goes up, the council says, and if there is only a 20 per cent increase there will be a 30 per cent decrease in domestic rate bills.

Good housekeeping and staying within the Government's 6 per cent guideline was the reason for the rate's reduction, Mr Spencer Rudkin, the council leader, said.

Staff had been reduced by 3,152 by natural wastage, he said. Although £5m was saved in the education department this year, one of the best pupil-teacher ratios in the country was maintained. More school meals were paid for and of the 65,000

meals served daily, 18,000 were free.

Credit balances for this year were expected to exceed £14m, Mr Rudkin said.

Merseyside increase: The Merseyside county rate precept to be levelled on the five district councils for the coming financial year will be 34.5p in the pound, a rise of less than 1 per cent compared to an increase of 29 per cent this year (Our Liverpool Correspondent writes).

It has been achieved by a cut of £12.5m in the estimates of the spending committees, nearly half of it on public transport.

The details were approved at the budget meeting of the policy committee in Liverpool yesterday. A Labour amendment calling for the budget to be redrawn on the ground that it was inappropriate was defeated by 19 votes to seven.

More Home News
page 27

'Truth drug' prisoner denies boy's murder

From Arthur Osman
Birmingham

A prisoner serving a life sentence for murder received an injection of the so-called "truth drug", sodium pentothal, at his request yesterday in Long Lartin maximum security prison near Evesham, Hereford and Worcester.

Vincent Hickey, aged 28, had been granted permission by the Home Office and it was said that it had cost his family about £600 to have his doctor, psychiatrist and lawyers present.

Mr Hickey, of Redditch, Hereford and Worcester, was convicted 15 months ago for his part in the killing of Carl Barry boy, near Stourbridge, West Midlands. It was recommended that he should serve a minimum of 25 years.

His wife, Mrs Mandy Hickey, said yesterday: "After having the drug injected he maintained his innocence throughout and we were confident of the outcome. There will be an attempt to make it admissible in the court of appeal."

She said that one of the other three men convicted of the killing had also protested his innocence after having the drug. "We think the results are quite conclusive."

When the Home Office said that permission had been granted Mr Hickey had been advised that any result would not be admissible as evidence and that the cost of the exercise would have to be met by him.

No date has been announced yet for the appeal by the four men.

Police killer's jail death not unexpected

The death of John Duddy, aged 52, serving a life sentence for killing a policeman, was sudden but not totally unexpected, it was stated at an inquest at Newport, Isle of Wight, yesterday.

At 5 pm last Sunday he was on his bed in a Parkhurst Hospital cell, cheerful and uncomplaining. Five minutes later an alarm sounded and he was found breathless. Oxygen was administered. He became unconscious and at 5.35 he was dead.

A post-mortem examination showed that he had a severe heart condition. A verdict of death from natural causes was recorded.

The only one with insight.



WEST EUROPE

Greek Government embarrassed by political furor after King Constantine's visit

From Our Own Correspondent Athens, Feb 13

Although King Constantine's brief homecoming yesterday for the burial of his mother went off without serious hitch, the political controversy touched off by the event, has not died down.

Mr Andreas Papandreu, the leader of the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek), the main opposition party, called for the Government's immediate resignation and prompt elections, arguing that the whole affair breached the country's republican constitution.

The opposition has feared that the Government, by granting its consent to the burial of Queen Frederika in Greece, was securing support from monarchist voters in a year of crucial general elections.

The opposition parties therefore managed, by overreacting, to intimidate the conservative Government into imposing such severe restrictions on the former King's length of stay as well as on public attendance at the service, that it reversed

monarchist sentiments towards the Government.

In the course of yesterday's outbursts at the funeral, royalist mourners hurled abuse and insults against the President of the Republic, and called the Minister who represented the Government at the service a "traitor".

Caught between these two fires, the Government tried to minimize the damage by emphasizing that disorders had been averted, and reproached both sides for trying to make political capital out of a purely humanitarian issue.

Mr George Rallis, the Prime Minister, said in a statement: "I feel compelled to point out with sincere regret the inadmissible frivolity of those from whichever side who thought they had found an opportunity for political gain from a death that should not have been made to exceed its human and family dimension."

He added: "Our democratic regime is very strong. It is not threatened by the presence either of dead or living

persons, but by the deliberate incitement of old political passions, and by those who wish to exploit them."

The Government party, however, now faces the problem of disciplining four of its members of Parliament who defied orders and attended the funeral. They are politicians of known royalist convictions who certainly rely on royalist votes for their re-election.

What surprised many foreign observers here is the strength of the feelings on both sides about the monarchy, as well as the coarseness of the irreverent abuse used against the controversial former Queen Mother even after her death.

This behaviour has outraged even traditionally anti-royalist Greeks who do not forget that King Constantine was, after all, the only one who attempted a full-scale counter-coup to topple the junta in 1967, a move that cost him his throne.

In this sense, these observers believe that the present controversy is likely to cause political losses to both sides.

Corsicans set off Paris bombs

Paris, Feb 13—Corsican separatists today claimed responsibility for three bomb explosions in the Paris area during the night. One seriously damaged the Italian tourist office and another destroyed 15 parked cars.

The claim by the Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC) to a news agency came little over a day after 46 bombs exploded at government offices, banks and other places in Corsica itself.

While police have said they believed the island bombings were FLNC work, the Front has not yet said it caused them. They came a day after a Paris court imprisoned 14 Corsican nationalists for terms of up to four years in connection with a kidnapping last year.

In the latest Paris incidents, as in those in Corsica, no one was hurt. The wrecked cars were in an Orly airport car park. The third explosion, at Bercy station, south-east Paris, damaged a railway carriage.

Earthquake bill to be paid by tax surcharge

From Peter Nichols Rome, Feb 13

Italians will pay a 5 per cent surcharge on income tax during the current year under a bill approved by the Government today, to finance a plan for reconstruction of the areas devastated by the earthquake in southern Italy last year.

The plan and the income tax surcharge Bill were approved at a meeting of the Cabinet today. The plan envisages full payment for rebuilding of private homes to owners who have had the houses they live in destroyed or damaged.

Bonn sounds out countries in threatened Asian areas

From Patricia Clough Bonn, Feb 13

Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, leaves here for Islamabad and Cairo on Sunday to sound out ways in which Germany can contribute to political stability in the highly sensitive area of South-West Asia.

In a two-day conference of 13 West German ambassadors from the area and in talks with Pakistani and Egyptian leaders he will discuss the consequences of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Gulf.

Herr Günther Van Well, his state secretary, who this week has been on a similar mission to the pro-Western Gulf states of Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, will report on his findings.

The talks are part of West Germany's policy of attempting to halt Soviet expansion by increasing the stability and self-confidence of non-aligned countries in threatened areas, particularly with trade, aid and diplomatic support.

Dr Luns is not resigning Nato post, official says

From Frederick Bonnard Brussels, Feb 13

Dr Joseph Luns, the Nato Secretary-General, has no intention of resigning at present, a senior official on his staff said here today, confirming Dr Luns's recent statement that "there is no vacancy".

Because of his age—he will be 70 in August—and his 10-year tenure, there have been periodic speculations about his departure. Although there is no provision for replacing a Secretary-General outside a voluntary departure, Dr Luns would not resist a common desire by mem-

ber countries for a change. According to senior diplomats at Nato, there is no abundance of possible candidates.

It could not be a Frenchman, because France does not participate in the military structure of the alliance, nor a Greek or a Turk owing to the present political difficulties.

The one real possibility is Mr Henri Simonet, the former Socialist Foreign Minister of Belgium who resigned and broke with his party because of their lack of support for the deployment in Europe of medium-range nuclear missiles.

Two lawyers who have defended arrested terrorists today were charged with distributing subversive propaganda.

Terrorist trial lawyers held in Italy

From Our Own Correspondent Rome, Feb 13

Two lawyers who have defended arrested terrorists today were charged with distributing subversive propaganda.

Signor Eduardo di Giovanni has defended Renato Curcio, who was among the founders of the left-wing Red Brigades movement. The other lawyer is a woman, Signora Giovanna Lombardi.

Signor Carmine Fiorillo, a journalist, was also arrested, and warrants have been issued for the arrest of others.

Work on Basque nuclear power plant to be resumed

From Richard Wigg Madrid, Feb 13

Work on building the nuclear power plant at Bilibio, near Bilbao, is to resume on Monday after an overwhelming vote in the Basque regional parliament not to bow to ETA "blackmail".

Construction involving some 3,700 workers had stopped after the Basque terrorist organization threatened to kill Señor José María Ryan, the chief engineer on the project whom they had kidnapped, in a vain attempt to save him.

But last Friday night the

engineer was murdered. That produced widespread anti-ETA demonstrations throughout the Basque region.

Resumption of work was announced today by Iberduero, the private utility company for whom the plant is being built. Torture allegation: A suspected Basque terrorist died in Madrid after eight days of police interrogation. The Basque Socialist Party accused police of torturing him after he was captured during a gun fight between police and suspected members of the ETA (Our Madrid Correspondent writes).

Patriotic call to unite Gaullists around new president M Debré fuels salvation crusade

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Feb 12

It takes some doing to appear before an audience of sceptical journalists and exalt the old-fashioned virtue of patriotism, the bold Gaullist objective of power and grandeur of France, and the need for a national awakening to halt the country's political and economic decline. Yet M Michel Debré, the former Prime Minister, has such a gift of eloquence and such a strength of conviction that yesterday he earned their respect, if not their acquiescence, in addressing them as a presidential candidate.

Words like "The honour of politics is to give back France her strength, that is the reconquest of France" would sound grandiloquent and empty when uttered by any other politician. But they have a special quality of forcefulness in the mouth of M Debré because he is so evidently sincere and convinced of the righteousness of what can only be described as his national crusade.

France is a country which is growing weaker within a free world which grows weaker and moreover is at loggerheads. The weakening of France and Frenchness is necessary, I am the candidate of that awakening. Politics is not a market of illusions. The reconquest of France, through her recovered strength, is her only hope. Frenchmen and women have the means of this reconquest, of

The French Elections

This new inspiration, which is the honour of politics," he declared. The presidential elections were not a matter for sordid combinations between parties or between persons. They were the most serious act in the life of the country, "an appeal to our patriotism." He would have nothing to do with these combinations, he said in answer to a question about the "convergence" between Gaullists and Socialists.

And what he would tell his followers to do in the second ballot? "I am a candidate confronted by Frenchmen, not by parties," he insisted. The Gaullist family extended beyond the ranks of the party organization. "I am the best man to unify the Gaullist family," he insisted. "I will not be understood by all my friends," he admitted, but I will be by Frenchmen. And to the end."

The former Prime Minister called for a government of national unity around a new President, which would include

men of different political origins who agreed on economic, social and political objectives, and were ready to work together on the task of national salvation. That government must be given special powers to carry through its programme of tax and public spending cuts, and fight against inflation. It would have to rule by decrees and ordinances. It would not be the first time in France.

He had been happy to note that many of the ideas he had been putting forward in the past six months, had been plagiarized by others, notably his call for tax cuts, investment incentives, the encouragement of medium and small firms.

Asked what kind of French nationalism he represented, M Debré bridled. The British, the Germans, the Americans, were all allowed to be nationalists. But when the French did the same, they were labelled "fascist chauvinists".

There was a basic confusion between nationalism and national sentiment. When Mr Reagan and Mrs Thatcher took their countries' interests in hand, they were appealing to national sentiment. There is no democracy, no freedom, without a national sentiment. The nation and liberty are deeply linked. This is not nationalism, it is the affirmation of the higher values of the republic."

OVERSEAS

Mr Trudeau rejects idea of Thatcher meeting

From John Best Ottawa, Feb 13

Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, last night rejected the idea of a meeting with Mrs Margaret Thatcher to settle the growing feud between Ottawa and London over partition of the Canadian constitution.

Mr Trudeau told a press conference that he had no personal complaints against Sir John Ford, the British High Commissioner here, who was criticized for allegedly meddling in Canadian affairs. Mr Trudeau also said he did not know of any telephone tapping at the Canadian High Commission in London.

Asked about the possibility of a meeting with Mrs Thatcher, he replied: "I don't think Mrs Thatcher has suggested such a meeting, and I haven't... and I think that proves that we are both pretty smart politicians."

He said Mrs Thatcher was welcome at any time but he thought it "might be unwise for her to come now and appear to be discussing something that she doesn't particularly want to discuss with me at this time."

"Therefore I don't want to lay that kind of a booby trap for her, because I like her too much," he said.

Informing that there had been a motion in the British Parliament for a debate on the issue, but that it had been rejected, he said: "So, people don't think of me as a very great. They are probably right."

The Prime Minister was similarly brief in responding to a question about tapping of confidential information at Canada's London diplomatic post. "I am not sure that such wire taps took place and of any methods used."

Diplomatic cables leaked to the Canadian news media earlier this week showed the High Commission was concerned that Britain and other countries were tapping its telephones to learn more about Canadian constitutional strategy.

The results of an investigation of Sir John Ford's activities, conducted by the External Affairs Department, had been transmitted to the British Foreign Office but with no "recommendations", Mr Trudeau said.

Last week Mr Edward Broadbent, the leader of the New Democratic Party, accused Sir John of "intolerable interference" in Canadian affairs by telling a party MP that Sir John had been "in the Canadian Government's constitutional plan may run into trouble" at Westminster. Mr Broadbent supports the Government on the stormy issue.

In the Commons today, Mr Mark MacGuigan, the External Affairs Minister, refused Conservative opposition requests for a report on his Department's investigation, but promised to answer questions at Monday's sitting.

Crash 'killed 23 Soviet admirals and generals'

Moscow, Feb 13—Twenty-three Soviet admirals and generals, including Admiral Emil Spiridonov, commander of the Pacific fleet, were among 70 people killed in an air crash on Saturday 7, Soviet sources said today.

There was no mention of the accident in local newspapers in Leningrad, where the officers were believed to have been taking part in a political meeting. But a representative of a Western airline said officials of Aeroflot, the Soviet airline, told him in Leningrad about the crash and its death toll.

The funeral of Admiral Spiridonov, who was among the victims, took place in Leningrad, Red Star reported yesterday.

Other identified dead included Vice-Admiral Vladimir Sobolev, head of the Pacific Navy's political department and Lieutenant-General Georgy Pavlov, head of that Navy's air force, the Soviet press said. It identified "a group of admirals, generals, warrant officers, ensigns, sailors, and civilian employees" as having died in the crash.—UPI.

Asian Americans protest over Ustinov film

Continued from page 1

amazed at the organized protest. "If we had any racist in any way we would never have made it."

He claimed the protesting groups were practising censorship and violating the company's right of free speech.

Mr Forrest Gook, an organizer of the San Francisco protest, denied the censorship claim. "It's not news or public affairs, it's a money matter. We want to show it's bad business to promote racism."

A Los Angeles television station related yesterday and agreed to run a commercial for the film after what the station termed Ustinov's

"pidgin English" dialogue was cut out.

London-born Ustinov has taken the whole uproar with great aplomb, pointing out that although two oriental actors played Chan in some 46 scenes, he was not Chinese.

Of the San Francisco protest, he said: "I think these people were slightly lost. Many of them looked in their mirrors and saw Chinese but they aren't Chinese. They can't speak Chinese."

"I told them we were really in the same position. I'm as English as they are American, and I'm as Russian as they are Chinese. Now where does that leave us?"

Mr Carter 'exceeded authority'

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Feb 13

A federal judge in Dallas, Texas, has issued a preliminary ruling that President Carter did not have the authority to release Iranian assets that were frozen when the American hostages were seized.

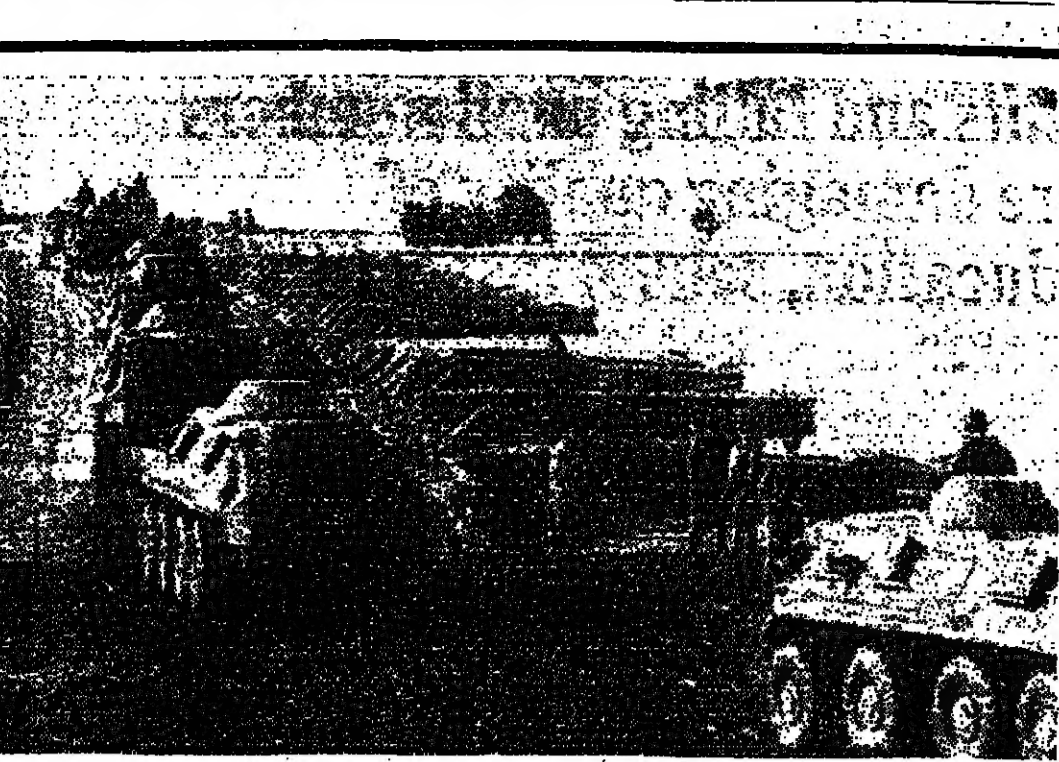
In the agreement that led to the hostages' release, the American Government committed itself to prevent all lawsuits by American citizens and companies against Iran.

In the Dallas case, the Texas computer millionaire, Mr H. Ross Perot, is suing Iran for breach of contract when a deal with his company, Electronic Data Systems, was cancelled after the revolution. He was

awarded \$19m (£8m) against Iran, and a deposit equivalent to that sum was attached in an Iranian account with the Marine Midland Bank in New York.

Under Mr Carter's executive order, signed the day before he left office last month, banks holding Iranian assets were meant to turn them over to the Federal Reserve Bank, which would dispose of them. The judge ruled that Mr Carter had no right to do anything of the sort, and that his order "suffers from serious constitutional deficiencies."

The judge, Mr Robert Porter, said that the President's order was an intrusion into the courts' sphere of competence. Much



Military exercise: Armoured vehicles crossing a floating bridge built by an engineering unit during a joint military exercise of East German and Soviet troops somewhere in the south of East Germany yesterday. The exercises were watched by General Heinz Hoffmann, the East German Defence Minister, and General

Michael Saitew, the new commander in chief of the "Group of Soviet Forces in Germany" (Gretel Spitzer writes from Berlin). According to a report in *Nies Deutschland* the motorized tank and rocket units and artillery supported by the Air Force, solved all tasks "under

complicated conditions". Engineers distinguished themselves when coping with river obstacles and quickly built a bridge so that other units could cross the river. At this point of the exercises the general praised the soldiers for their performances, the newspaper reported.

Both Solidarity and new Warsaw Government need a respite

From Dossa Trivisan Warsaw, Feb 13

The national committee of the independent trade union movement Solidarity has indicated its willingness to give the new Government of General Wojciech Jaruzelski three months of peace on the condition that it carries out its promise and that talks between the Government and the unions, which are to begin immediately, bear fruit.

The three months which the new Prime Minister asked for to bring the situation under control will give Poland not only a breathing space but provide the time for negotiations on a whole range of issues which the former Government failed to tackle to be conducted in a better atmosphere.

The national committee of Solidarity, whose chairman, Mr Lech Walesa, is expected to meet General Jaruzelski this weekend or at the beginning of next week, met yesterday to consider its strategy in the face of the refusal to legalize a trade union for farmers and the appointment of the new Government which has promised, to meet the outstanding issues in an atmosphere of good will and continuing negotiations.

Solidarity said that while it was ready to stop strikes as the country needed a time of calm it would judge the Government on its merits. Should negotiations prove futile or fruitless the unions would press their demands by all means including the use of strikes.

The main areas where Solidarity and the authorities have not yet reached agreement are the new labour law whose draft is yet to be finalized, the new relaxed censorship law which is still a matter of deep divisions and controversy, and

the question of access to mass media for the unions.

The new law on self-management in industry is still awaited and the question as to the formation of a rural Solidarity has been formally rejected by the courts, but the peasants have not yet given up.

On one side they are told that they can form an association on the lines that farming is a private profession. Such an association could then be registered by the administration which means that it would fall within Government jurisdiction.

The unions, who have been waiting for the outstanding issues to be settled and who have felt that the previous government has been deliberately acting slowly, now want to see results before formally undertaking to give the Government a three-month moratorium on strikes.

This is the gist of the resolution in which the national committee of Solidarity, which embraces about 50 regional sections, agreed to talks with the Government. But "the breathing space which the Government has been deliberately acting slowly, now want to see results before formally undertaking to give the Government a three-month moratorium on strikes."

Solidarity needs time to put its own house in order, to put its strategy and to organize itself, particularly in the case of the new law on strikes, many of which are purely local demands and often started without consulting the central committee, has shown the drawbacks of the organizational structure which allows regional unions considerable autonomy.

To stop what is obviously a dangerous trend regional sections have been instructed that all strikes must be approved by the national committee. If this order is disregarded the

committee has said it would publicly dissociate itself from such a strike. This is the closest that the Solidarity leadership has come to recognizing that the trend of regional unions pursuing local issues was threatening to sidetrack the movement.

But Solidarity has openly voiced its concern at recent escalation of official attacks against dissidents.

The national committee of Solidarity is now coming out in defence of the dissidents, accusing the Government of backing down on the commitments undertaken last summer and warning it that any reprisals against people for their political opinions would be fiercely resisted.

First contact: Mr Walesa will have his first contact with a representative of the new Polish Government tomorrow, when he meets Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Premier (Agence France-Press reports).

At a press conference today, Mr Rakowski announced the meeting, adding that he had been chosen to meet Mr Walesa in his capacity as the head of the newly created committee for cooperating with trade unions.

Asked about the possibility that the accord signed last summer would be revised, Mr Rakowski said that the new Government was determined to follow a policy of comprehension, understanding and dialogue with society.

General Jaruzelski's personal view of the American NATO Supreme Commander in Europe said in Brussels today that he did not believe it would be in the West's interests for the Polish Army to resist any Soviet invasion, because the conflict could spread.—Reuter.

Tension in Bulawayo will be a crucial test of Mr Nkomo's ability to control Zipra

From Stephen Taylor Bulawayo, Feb 13

Bulawayo returned to a semblance of normality today as national army troops moved cautiously around the township of Entumbane to pick up bodies of those killed in the city's bloodiest days since it acquired its name.

Mr Joshua Nkomo, the leader of the Patriotic Front party, speaking in the city that is his political stronghold, said today measures would be taken to move both his Zipra supporters and Zania men from Entumbane, and Rogers, the American NATO Supreme Commander in Europe said in Brussels today that he did not believe it would be in the West's interests for the Polish Army to resist any Soviet invasion, because the conflict could spread.—Reuter.

around the township, stacking bodies into vehicles. Armed Zipra and Zania men regarded each other with hostile suspicion but by this evening there had been no serious clashes.

Thousands of civilian refugees who had fled Entumbane yesterday returned to their homes this morning. In some cases homes had been reduced to rubble by mortar and rocket fire.

Radio broadcasts appealed to people to return to work and shops opened for the first time since Wednesday. The city centre, which was closed yesterday, was again thronged with traffic.

About 120 miles north-east on the road to Salisbury, Zipra elements of the battalion that had been integrated at Commatara on Tuesday were this morning due to return.

Light aircraft flew overhead using a loud hailer to appeal to the men to put down their weapons. When that had no effect a Hawker Hunter fighter moved into the area. Tonight it was reported that the men were ready to surrender.

The next few days will prove a crucial test of Mr Nkomo's ability to control the former Zipra guerrillas who form the military arm of his party.

Authorities in Bulawayo and Salisbury have seized television and still film being sent out of the country. Film taken during the Entumbane clashes yesterday by an ITN cameraman was confiscated by customs officials in Bulawayo. The cameraman, Mr Peter Sharpe, was told today that the film would be released to him but it was not film being sent to Germany as still film taken by a UP photographer.

Today the battalion moved

Casualty figures at present are sketchy but it is believed that about 11 who died at Glenville; up to 50 Zipra men were killed when their vehicles were hit by heavy fire when they were within the city limits, and scores more have died at Entumbane.

Mr Nkomo, who arrived here yesterday and has been meeting the Zipra commander, Lookout Masuku, told a press conference it was vital to move

of the difficulties encountered by American negotiators in reaching an agreement with Iran turned on the question of what the President could and could not do about Iranian funds held in the United States.

The Government maintains that Mr Carter had the legal authority to do what it did, but the case was not argued before Judge Porter. The Justice Department reserved its position because President Reagan has yet to decide whether to honour his predecessor's agreements with Iran. A review of the agreements was begun shortly after Mr Reagan took office and is not yet complete. The Iranians have appealed against the Judge's ruling.

Polish team may be invited to union talks

By Donald MacIntyre Labour Staff

The National Union of Railmen is insisting that representatives of Solidarity, the Polish trade union organization, should be invited to an international union conference in Belgium in May.

The move, which may embarrass official centrally-backed union organizations from the Eastern block which have accepted invitations to an international union conference in Belgium in May.

The conference, which will be attended by Mr Sidney Webb, general secretary of the NUR, is organized by the Brussels-based International Trade Union Seminar which embraces unions affiliated both to Western and Eastern European international trade union bodies.

The NUR, which is joint host with French and Belgian trade union bodies this year, will be presenting a paper which may also be sensitive to Eastern block official unions because of its call for shorter working hours and longer holidays.

The union, which originally backed the invitation to Solidarity pressed for its renewal at a meeting of the host unions in London earlier this month when it heard that some reply had been received.

An official of the NUR said last night that the official Communist Party-backed trade union organization in Poland had rejected invitations to the conference.

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OVERSEAS

Israeli and Syrian jets clash again

From Christopher Walker Jerusalem, Feb 13

The Israeli and Syrian air forces were involved in another clash over Lebanon today. Israeli pilots reported shooting down a Syrian jet in a dogfight over the centre of the country. According to an Israeli military spokesman, the battle occurred when a Syrian aircraft intercepted a patrol of Israeli jets carrying out what was described as a routine reconnaissance flight over Lebanon. He claimed that all the Israeli jets had returned safely to base.

The incident was the latest in a series of clashes between the Israeli and Syrian air forces. There has been concern in diplomatic circles that the individual exchanges may lead to widespread fighting, but this is thought unlikely while relations between Syria and Jordan are in such a delicate state.

In December 31, Israeli aircraft returning from a bombing mission against Palestinian guerrilla targets in South Lebanon shot down two Syrian MIG 21s.

Less than two weeks before the Syrian soldiers were killed during an Israeli ground attack on Palestinian bases, in retaliation the Syrians launched a heavy artillery bombardment against the enclave held by the Israeli-backed militias of Major Saad Haddad.

Envoy says Syria has kept its ambassador in Jordan despite a deepening conflict between the two countries, Syrian sources said (Reuters reports from Beirut).

Mr Sadat hails Reagan response on Middle East peace process

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Feb 13

President Sadat, who left France this morning at the end of a two-day visit during which he met President Giscard d'Estaing and leaders of the Jewish community, told a press conference that the European Community could help to keep up the momentum of peace started at Camp David.

He went out of his way to express his gratitude to the French President and people for the support and understanding he had met during his stay in Paris.

He had not come to sell Camp David to the Europeans, but to say to them: "Let us try to combine our efforts. Camp David is not a treaty; it is not a final agreement. It is a framework for agreement." President Sadat emphasized, "within which the Europeans through an initiative can help extract full autonomy for the Palestinians. The Palestine problem is the core of the solution to the Middle East problem."

The Community could play a military role in the stationing of forces under United Nations auspices in the Sinai once it had been completely evacuated, to make every party feel economic guarantees for a regional economic plan to assist in development.

"The Ten can provide a lot in this field," he insisted. It could have a share in a guarantee of the frontiers agreed upon in the settlement, "so that

everyone, both on the Arab and the Israeli side can feel secure."

The Egyptian President emphasized that the European initiative which he welcomed would not diminish what he described as "the essential role of the United States in the search for a settlement."

In an exchange of correspondence with President Reagan, he had insisted that it must continue as a full partner in the peace process if the peace talks were to be successful.

"Without the United States we could not have achieved what we have so far," Mr Reagan's response had been most favourable. Asked whether the Israelis were favourable to an European initiative, he replied he could not speak for them.

Mr Sadat spoke about the so-called "Jordanian option". "I have no objection to Jordan joining the peace talks, but at the proper moment," he said.

He had said in 1974, before the Geneva conference, that there should be a link between the Palestine State to emerge and Jordan. "It was decided at Camp David that we would seek to obtain a multinational force to guarantee the agreements. But when we went to the United Nations to ask for this the Russians would have nothing to do with it and threatened to use their veto."

The link with Jordan must be forged after the Palestinian State had been established, not before, Mr Yassir Arafat had agreed in principle to this in 1974, but had later denied it.

President Sadat went on to emphasize that it was for the Palestinians to decide their future, not for the United States, Israel, Jordan or Egypt. But he did not think the Palestine Liberation Organization on its own constituted a provisional Palestinian government.

It would be up to a provisional government in which all the Palestinian organizations would be represented to agree on a mutual and simultaneous recognition of each other's existence with Israel.

He had told the leaders of the Afghan rebellion who had come to see him not to fall into the error of the PLO and fail to set up a provisional government.

President Sadat said he had had no contacts with the PLO lately. He had not sent a message to the PLO congress in Beirut, as had been reported. "If they want something, they must come to Cairo," he emphasized, "they will be welcome. But we have nothing particular to say to them."

He repeatedly condemned Soviet sabotage of attempts to achieve a peace settlement in the Middle East. "It was decided at Camp David that we would seek to obtain a multinational force to guarantee the agreements. But when we went to the United Nations to ask for this the Russians would have nothing to do with it and threatened to use their veto."

President Giscard d'Estaing and he had discussed the world situation. The security of Europe and the security of the Middle East are closely linked, Mr Sadat insisted. The French President's and his views on developments in Chad were identical.

Aid agencies seeking food supplies for Vietnam

From Neil Kelly Bangkok, Feb 13

International aid officials, including some United Nations agencies, are scouring the world for gifts of food and money to feed Vietnam which they say needs 750,000 tons of rice this year to avoid serious malnutrition.

Even if that amount is forthcoming, Vietnam will have enough cereal to provide a monthly ration of only 13 kilograms (about 30lb) a person, significantly less than the amount required for good health.

Relief officials say Western nations which have contributed large amounts of food aid to Kampuchea since Vietnam invaded that country show no willingness now to feed the Vietnamese. Members of the Association of South-East Asian nations are similarly disinclined to help.

Thailand has cancelled all rice sales to Vietnam since its incursion into Thai territory. The Soviet Union has warned the Hanoi Government that it can supply no food aid in 1981 because of the American grain embargo and other problems. Last year the Russians supplied 850,000 tons.

For the fourth successive year the recent rice harvest in Vietnam has failed to meet the Government's target.

Two typhoons during the growing season late last year destroyed ricefields in large areas of northern Vietnam.

PARLIAMENT, February 13, 1981

Behaviour of Sandwell Council over policy on closed shop attacked as 'grossly totalitarian'

House of Lords

The local authority which dismissed Miss Joanna Harris, a poultry inspector, who refused to join a trade union, had behaved in a grossly totalitarian manner, Lord Harris of Greenwich, a former Labour minister, said during questions.

Lord Harris of Greenwich (Lab), who raised the matter, said that the local authorities and others who might contemplate equally offensive behaviour of this character, put themselves at risk of surcharge by the district auditor.

Many people regarded the authority's behaviour as outrageous.

This young woman (he said) has been put in the position of choosing between her principles and a long and tedious legal battle. If this matter cannot be resolved under existing law, there is an overwhelming demand for a change of law.

Lord Lyell, Lord-in-Waiting: The Government is reviewing trade union immunities in connection with the proposed Social Security Bill. When the Green Paper comes out, we will discuss it.

All of us are aware of the sense of outrage and indignation which this case has aroused, all round the country.

The matter of a surcharge against members of the council in this case is a separate question, the question of a penalty or fine will be decided by an industrial tribunal.

Lord Harris of Greenwich (Lab) said that the council's behaviour was grossly totalitarian.

Lord Lyell: I would not repudiate anything which the Secretary of State says. (Laughter.) Far be it from me. He speaks of the Act fobbing off but it does not do such things.

It strengthens the position of the employees of State under the 1980 Act. If the employee's case is proved in the industrial tribunal, he stands to gain a large sum in compensation.

Lord Bruce of Donington (Lab) for the Opposition: Will he bear in mind that there are always people in this country who are prepared to be employed at rates of pay and under conditions of work which have been gained for the union movement—(Lab cheers)—

without at the same time accepting part of the responsibility themselves to aid in that process?

Lord Lyell: In this case Miss Harris wished to work for that authority. The terms of her contract in no way stated that she had to join a union. We believe the Employment Act strengthens her right and that of every worker.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C): The right of compensation for loss of a job is not an adequate answer in cases like this, where the employee has a job of which she is fond, where she wishes to work. If the outcome is that she is deprived of her job without adequate compensation, it will satisfy many of us of the inadequacy of the present law.

Lord Lyell: This Government and many others have recognized that no government and law can force people to work together.

Lord Harris of Greenwich: The crucial question is whether this young woman can get her job back, because compensation is not enough. The central question is that it is intolerable at a time of high unemployment that she should be put in that position by this local authority behaving in this grossly totalitarian manner.

Lord Lyell: We agree. It is not the industrial tribunal, which can require the employer to reinstate or re-employ. We must not put the case will go to appeal next month.

The Wildlife and Countryside Bill's committee stage was continued and adjourned.

House adjourned 7.30 pm.

Gaelic prospers without a Bill

House of Commons

The Gaelic (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill offered a small measure of aid to one of the most ancient languages of Europe which was part of the heritage of every Scot, Mr Donald Stewart said when moving the Bill's second reading.

Mr Stewart (Western Isles, Scot Nat) said a public opinion survey carried out in Perth last October showed that 77 per cent of people believed Gaelic should be recognized officially as the national language of Scotland and 88 per cent wanted to see it continue as a living tongue.

The 1971 census showed there were 29,000 Gaelic speakers which was an increase of 9,000. There had also been the phenomenal success of the series of lessons in the language on the BBC which had taken everyone by surprise.

Gaelic was a priceless heritage, which was very much alive, and which needed only the status provided in the Bill to make the language's survival and development certain.

His Bill defined Gaelic speaking areas (the Highlands region, the Western Isles Islands Council, Argyllshire and Inner Hebrides, and Perthshire) and in those areas education authorities would have a duty to teach the language in schools.

There would be a right for language to be spoken in any legal proceedings in Scotland by any party or witness and to have Gaelic versions of statutory forms.

The Bill also proposed the setting up of a Gaelic Broadcasting Committee, consisting of representatives from the IBA and BBC.

He had received representations from such a committee could cut across the powers and responsibilities of the Broadcasting Council for Scotland and it had been suggested the spirit of the Bill was to encourage the proposed committee was advisory rather than mandatory.

If the BBC and IBA gave assurances that they would operate within the spirit of the Bill, he would lodge amendments to that effect.

William Walker (Perth and East Perthshire, C) said while he was in sympathy with any attempt to improve Scotland's heritage and image, he was reluctant to introduce legislation of any kind on any matter that did not ensure funds to back it up.

Mr George Robertson (Hamilton, Lab) said he did not believe the fanatical view that this sort of culture must be imposed on those who did not wish it but he supported the Bill's modest principles.

Mr Albert McQuarrie (East Ayrshire, C) said the areas defined in the Bill for the promotion of Gaelic were divisive to the rest of Scotland. But it was a modest step for those who wanted the language.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee, East Scot Nat) said he congratulated Mr Stewart on his Bill. However, while he welcomed it, he wished to apply the measure to other parts of Scotland. If they went too far too fast, the House might not accept the Bill. There would be no step forward.

Mr Martin O'Neill, an Opposition spokesman on Scotland (East Strathclyde, Lab), said the Opposition gave qualified support to the Bill. They would like to have on the proposed Gaelic Broadcasting Committee representatives of organizations which had an interest in the promotion of the language.

Mr Alexander Fletcher, Under Secretary for Scotland (Edinburgh, Lab), said the Government wanted to see the Gaelic language and culture enhanced and developed, but it did not necessarily equate support and encouragement for the language with support for the details of the Bill.

The Government had given financial and other support for the language and culture and would seek where possible to enhance their position.

The main instrument for developing Gaelic must be the strength and initiative of Gaelic speakers themselves, active in external assistance and support where that was necessary and appropriate.

It was impossible to put a figure on the cost of the measures proposed in the Bill. The Government would rather see any money available to the Scottish Gaelic speakers' association in Wales. Some children in his constituency were hostile towards Gaelic because it had been forced on them.

Mr Tom Hooson (Brecon and Radnor, C) said it was a great mistake to force the teaching of any language on a child learning in Wales. Some children in his constituency were hostile towards Gaelic because it had been forced on them.

Mr Gordon Wilson moved the closure of the debate. The result was 37 votes in favour and 19 against. The Deputy Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) ruled that since fewer than 100 MPs had voted, the matter was not decided so the debate on the Bill was adjourned.

House adjourned 3.7 pm.

Pretoria 'flying arms' to Mozambique rebels

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Feb 13

A deserter from the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), which opposes the Pretoria-run Government, has said that the organization is being supplied with South African arms.

Mr Hose Martins Gilberto, a radio operator, told a press conference in Maputo today that military supplies were being flown from an air base on the Gazankulu homeland not far from the Mozambique border.

The claim has been denied by a South African Defence Force spokesman who said in Pretoria that "certain neighbouring states are obviously trying to influence world opinion."

However, there are growing indications that the organization may be receiving backing from South Africa after the loss of support bases in eastern Zimbabwe at independence.

During a Frelimo attack on a MNR base at Sitatunga in Manica province last August quantities of South African arms and ammunition were seized.

According to MNR supporters who were captured on that occasion the organization was supplied by South African helicopters and Nord Atlas transport aircraft which brought in weapons and ammunition as well as food. South Africans had also acted as military instructors in the camp, it was alleged.

The MNR has been a thorn

in the side of the Mozambique Government for the past two years. Despite several military successes by government forces, including the capture of MNR bases at Corongoro and Sitatunga, the organization has continued to ambush vehicles, attack government installations and blow up bridges.

South Africa's attack on houses inhabited by members of the banned African National Congress (ANC) near Maputo two weeks ago has already placed a strain on South African-Mozambique relations, which until recently had been maintained on a discreetly business-like basis because of the economic interdependence between the two countries.

The new allegations may serve to reinforce Mozambique suspicions that South Africa is adopting an increasingly aggressive attitude towards its black neighbours.

Mozambique officials point out that not only are the South Africans actively supporting the UNITA dissident movement in southern Angola but have been accused by Zimbabwe of training about 8,000 troops loyal to Bishop Abel Muzorewa, the former Prime Minister, as a destabilizing force in Zimbabwe.

President Samora Machel of Mozambique is to address a mass rally in Maputo tomorrow at which he will explain the "reasons and circumstances" of the South African raid against the ANC houses. He may also take the opportunity to refer to the deteriorating relations between the two countries.



President Obote declaring that the recent guerilla attacks had failed to win their objectives.

More Uganda politicians arrested

From Charles Harrison Nairobi, Feb 13

The Ugandan authorities have made more arrests of prominent politicians, including Mrs Rhonda Kalema, a former assistant minister, in the wake of the attacks on police stations and posts for which an unknown group, the Uganda Freedom Movement, has claimed responsibility.

President Milton Obote, making his first public appearance since the attacks, told reporters at Entebbe last night that the Uganda Freedom Movement's claim to control territory in western Uganda was false. "They control nothing," he said.

Nevertheless, efforts to track down the organizers of the attacks are still continuing.

and it appears that the Ugandan security forces have had little real success. They have been resorting instead to looting some of the homes they have been searching in what is said to be a hunt for illegal weapons.

Kampala itself is still tense. Local residents have great difficulty in obtaining supplies of basic foods.

Russia back on attack against US

From Michael Binyon Moscow, Feb 13

The Russians again returned to the attack today on President Reagan's charges that they were supporting international terrorism, calling the accusation "absurd" and maintaining that only ignorance or malice could couple terrorism with national liberation movements.

Pravda called the charge an "outrage" to the aspirations of millions of people in Asia, Africa, and Latin America who had struggled against colonialism for their freedom.

The paper said it was "blasphemous" to accuse the Palestinians of terrorism while ignoring Israel's "monstrous crimes" in the occupied territories, and it denounced American support for the military government in El Salvador.

Meanwhile, Tass issued several more commentaries on the issue today, accusing the Americans in turn of supporting terrorism. Last week, an event in Washington did not like would be automatically put down to the actions of terrorists. A Soviet weekly denied that the Russians or Cubans had ever instigated any liberation movement to take up arms. Such movement had arisen only because oppressors left people no other way to freedom.

The torrent of angry denials of the terrorism charge suggested that the Americans have touched a very sensitive Soviet nerve. The Russians clearly see the assertion as a challenge to their ideology.

American protest: The United States has lodged a "strong protest" with the Soviet Foreign Ministry, claiming Soviet military men violated United States Embassy grounds and seized a Russian trying to get into the consular section, a spokesman said in Moscow (AP reports).

US Marine turned discharged

Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, Feb 13.—Private Robert Garwood, the American Marine convicted last week of collaborating with the Vietnamese, was today ordered to be dishonourably discharged from the service, but not given a prison sentence.

The five-officer jury could have put Mr Garwood, the only American turned out of the Vietnam war, in prison for life. They deliberated less than an hour on his sentence, which included demotion to private before his discharge.

Mr Garwood, who spent 14 years behind enemy lines, did challenge the charges but said he was driven insane by Vietcong torture.

In a statement read to the jury by his lawyer, Mr Garwood said he accepted the accusations by former prisoners of war and agreed with defence psychiatrists that he was sick.—UPI.

Compromise plan saves Nigerian coalition

From Karan Thapar Lagos, Feb 13

A compromise has been worked out between the two partners in Nigeria's Government after fears that the coalition might break up. According to the chairman of the Nigerian People's Party (NPP), the junior partner, the coalition accord will not be broken, despite strong pressure to the contrary, but NPP members of Parliament will be "free to vote as they wish."

The NPP chairman said: "We will not tolerate a situation in which the National Party will on its own dictate the tune to our legislators."

As it was the NPP voting against the Revenue Allocation Bill that brought the present

crisis to a head, this new arrangement can be no more than an attempt at buying time. Whilst the NPP is divided on whether to continue the accord, the president's own National Party (NPN) appears to be determined to end it.

It was with this in mind that NPN senators yesterday rejected the nominations of all four NPP ambassadorial nominees. The other 22 were passed by a mere voice vote.

It is expected that this action will strengthen the hand of the anti-coalition NPP members. Commenting on the rejection of the NPN senators, the NPP senate leader said: "If the NPN wants to run the Government alone we wish them the best of luck."

Corporals jailed for plotting Jamaica coup

Kingston, Feb 13.—Two corporals in the Jamaica Defence Force, Athle Swaby and Philbert Trenchfield, have been sentenced by a court martial to 10 and five years imprisonment respectively for their part in a plot to overthrow the government last year.

The prosecution said that the two corporals, together with Henry Charles Jamaica, leader of the small Jamaica United Front Party, planned to capture Mr Michael Manley, the then Prime Minister, and Brigadier Robert Neish, the Defence Force Chief of Staff, last June. They allegedly planned to force Mr Manley to resign so Mr Johnson could take power.—Agence France-Press.

Pakistan takes lead to prevent Afghan question being dodged

Non-aligned issue 'troops out' call to Russia

From Trevor Fishlock Delhi, Feb 13

The movement of nations professing non-alignment tonight restored some of its credibility by finally agreeing to call on the Russians to withdraw their army of occupation from Afghanistan.

The "troops out" demand from the conference of the movement's foreign ministers recently began repeating that non-aligned countries should regard the Soviet Union as an ally. The conference's declaration calling for them to withdraw from Afghanistan is plainly a blow.

Seven years ago, President Brezhnev sent a message to the non-aligned summit in Algiers that the socialist countries were the natural allies of the non-aligned movement.

That theme was promoted strongly by Cuba at the Havana summit two years ago. But the

Soviet occupation of Afghanistan has led to some disillusionment with Russia, as well as anger, within the non-aligned movement.

The Russians have been watching events in Delhi this week with some anxiety. Worried about their image in the developing world after the occupation of Afghanistan, they have recently been repeating that non-aligned countries should regard the Soviet Union as an ally. The conference's declaration calling for them to withdraw from Afghanistan is plainly a blow.

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That theme was promoted strongly by Cuba at the Havana summit two years ago. But the

force said the Russians should call home their 85,000 soldiers, the movement would lose any claim to respect. There was strong and impatient feeling that the Afghan question was too important to be dodged.

Pakistan took the initiative, insisting the conference should address itself to Realpolitik and stop being evasive. Mr Ayub Khan, Pakistan's Foreign Minister, was an impressive leader in moves urging the conference not to be ambivalent.

A "troops out" phrase was argued into the draft declaration, but in the small hours of this morning, when delegates were weary, Yemen managed to alter Afghanistan's nomenclature to Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Delegates were too tired to notice what had happened, but there was dismay when it was realized that to describe

Afghanistan in that way would be tantamount to the non-aligned movement giving recognition to the Russian-installed Kabul regime.

Only after hours of intense activity were the mischievously inserted offending words deleted.

The conference also reaffirmed the right of the people of Kampuchea to determine their destiny free from foreign interference.

The conference expressed a "profound regret" at the war being fought between the non-aligned neighbours Iraq and Iran.

In keeping with what is a tradition of the non-aligned movement, the conference was characterized by dissonance. But eventually it haggled its way to a form of words suggesting harmony.

Leading article, page 15

Blast damages Assam oil pipeline

From Trevor Fishlock Delhi, Feb 13

One of two pipelines carrying oil from Assam to a Bihar refinery was damaged by an explosion today. The attack came 17 days after an oil blockade by student agitators ended.

The students were demanding that Bengali immigrants in the state should be deported, and that grievances should be redressed.

The oil blockade which lasted 13 months was a serious matter because Assam provides more than a third of India's domestic oil production.

The Government avoided confrontation with the agitators, seeking to end the trouble through talks. The restoration of oil supplies from Assam to the rest of India at the end of January marked a change in the troubled political and social atmosphere in Assam.

But the attack in central Assam on one of the 750-mile pipelines is an indication of the strength of feeling among some Assamese.

While the damaged pipeline is under repair oil is flowing through its twin.



Bridge

Blackwoodsmen

Easley Blackwood has written a number of books about bridge, but it is undoubtedly his eponymous convention which has earned him worldwide recognition. Surprisingly, the bridge world's original reaction was a mixture of scorn and disinterest. The editor of the magazine to which he submitted his manuscript returned it with a curt rejection slip, and the leading experts of the day dismissed it as a childish prop for novices. My predecessor, Edward Mayer, who disliked all conventions, invited the Portland Club to agree that he convention violated rule 23, which provides a harsh penalty for an honour which is "exposed during the auction".

No doubt Mayer's submission was prompted by his mordant sense of humour. It is just as well that it was overruled, for otherwise the bridge players would have been deprived of their favourite toy. For many years, the experts obstinately refused to recognize the worth of the convention. Even those apostles of direct action, the Acol team, insisted on the retention of the Culbertson four-five no trump convention. Today that convention is used as frequently as wooden-shafted golf clubs.

In the modern game, over 90 per cent of all bridge players use Blackwood and over 80 per cent misapply it. The principal objection to the convention was that the Blackwood bidder became an automatic interrogator, asking questions but revealing nothing, as we shall see. The average player mistakenly assumes that Blackwood should be the automatic prelude to any slam. The expert will only use the convention on roughly one slam hand in three.

Never forget that Blackwood is only a good convention when assessed to intelligent cue-bidding. Until a partnership has established that it possesses first or second round control in every suit, it is a bad mistake to introduce Blackwood. It follows that when a good player bids a conventional four no trumps, he shows that the partnership controls every suit.

Common sense reveals two other occasions where the four no trump bid shows as well as asks. If the agreed trump suit is clubs, it is obviously unsound to use Blackwood with fewer than two aces, as a five diamond response would take the partnership too high. Similarly, if diamonds is the agreed trump suit, the four no trump bid promises at least one ace.

It would be absurd to search for a grand slam missing an ace. So if the four no trump bidder follows with a bid of five no trumps, he promises at the partnership holds all 10 aces. Sometimes this knowledge will permit the responder to bid the grand slam in preference to giving his conventional response. Although

Chess

Epic rivalry

In two days, envelopes containing bids for the World Championship match between the titleholder Anatoly Karpov of the Soviet Union and his constant rival Viktor Korchnoi, once also USSR but now Switzerland, will be opened at FIDE headquarters in Amsterdam. Despite the fact that a sum of a couple of million dollars is involved it is confidently anticipated there will be a large number of bids since the contest between two such mighty opposites is of entrancing interest. On every occasion so far the issue has hung on a hair's breadth and at the last match it Baguio City in the Philippines, had not Korchnoi unavailingly chosen a Swiss, he would have been in the last game it seems pretty certain it would have been he, rather than Karpov who would have been defending his title.

What a contrast there is between the young creature of the establishment, blessed by the very and cherished by a forerunner of the USSR, and a defector, a valiant rebel against all he dictates of any party whether national or supranational, a contrast made all the more poignant and striking by the fact that the rebel is as old as the conformation of the Korchnoi chess is already quite clearly established with that excellent young band of gifted grandmasters in Michael Stean (United Kingdom) and Lev Alburt and Yasser Seirawan (both United States of America) with a fine Swiss lawyer as leader of the delegation.

Who represents the USSR is not quite so clear. Last time Karpov's seconds were Geller, Astukov, Tal and Saltykov and he leader of the delegation was D. Baturinsky. It is known that some countries will be repeating bids they made last time. Austria, for example, will be bidding strongly for Graz and there should also be bids from the Argentine, Brazil, West Germany, The Netherlands, possibly also from the United States of America, Italy, Switzerland, and, who knows, possibly from some of the more recent FIDE members such as Libya, Algeria or any one of the oil rich nations. I suppose such a description also applies to the United Kingdom—how? I wonder if we could have the stock exchange for about three months? I remember that we were allowed to use the Amsterdam Bourse for a great international tournament year back in 1954—but that was during vacation time.

Whoever organizes the match and whatever the result I am sure

Harry Golombek

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Today 7.30 p.m. THE WARMTH OF ITALY AND THE ROMANCE OF VIENNA. Works by Johann Strauss, Richard Strauss, Suppe, Mendelssohn (Italian Symphony) & Tchaikovsky (Italian Capriccio).
E.L. 1.50, 2.50, 3.50, 4.50, 5.50, 6.50, 7.50, 8.50, 9.50, 10.50, 11.50, 12.50, 13.50, 14.50, 15.50, 16.50, 17.50, 18.50, 19.50, 20.50, 21.50, 22.50, 23.50, 24.50, 25.50, 26.50, 27.50, 28.50, 29.50, 30.50, 31.50, 32.50, 33.50, 34.50, 35.50, 36.50, 37.50, 38.50, 39.50, 40.50, 41.50, 42.50, 43.50, 44.50, 45.50, 46.50, 47.50, 48.50, 49.50, 50.50, 51.50, 52.50, 53.50, 54.50, 55.50, 56.50, 57.50, 58.50, 59.50, 60.50, 61.50, 62.50, 63.50, 64.50, 65.50, 66.50, 67.50, 68.50, 69.50, 70.50, 71.50, 72.50, 73.50, 74.50, 75.50, 76.50, 77.50, 78.50, 79.50, 80.50, 81.50, 82.50, 83.50, 84.50, 85.50, 86.50, 87.50, 88.50, 89.50, 90.50, 91.50, 92.50, 93.50, 94.50, 95.50, 96.50, 97.50, 98.50, 99.50, 100.50, 101.50, 102.50, 103.50, 104.50, 105.50, 106.50, 107.50, 108.50, 109.50, 110.50, 111.50, 112.50, 113.50, 114.50, 115.50, 116.50, 117.50, 118.50, 119.50, 120.50, 121.50, 122.50, 123.50, 124.50, 125.50, 126.50, 127.50, 128.50, 129.50, 130.50, 131.50, 132.50, 133.50, 134.50, 135.50, 136.50, 137.50, 138.50, 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Gardening

Clean cut swords

Once again this year there are no dramatic developments to report in the field of motor mowers, cultivators and other mechanized garden equipment. There have been improvements in design, reduction in noise, easier starting of petrol driven machines and attention to safety but of course the general trend has been for prices to rise, in some cases by as much as 20 per cent or more.

So if you are contemplating the purchase of any, but the smallest, simplest, cheapest machine I strongly advise you to seek out a supplier that can either demonstrate machines on their premises or bring a selection of machines to your garden for you to try yourself.

You would not I am sure buy a new car without first having driven it around a block or two and I would never buy a garden machine without giving it a trial if only to make sure I could handle it with complete confidence. It may mean doing some research in the yellow pages of the local telephone directory to find a firm that will give this service but it is well worth taking some trouble to make sure that you are getting the right machine for the work it will have to do in your particular garden.

For really close mowing on fine lawns the cylinder type machines are still the best. But the latest generation of rotary mowers do cut the grass to an acceptable lawn length and there are now models with a roller on the back which leaves the lawn with a smooth appearance on the lawn. It only lasts a day or so and as far as I am concerned if the grass is neatly cut I could not care less about the banded cut.

Of course the roller type rotary mower has the advantage that one can mow right up to the edge of a lawn whereas with some rotary mowers that have four wheels this is not possible. There are, however, models in which the blade or blades actually cut an inch or two further out than the wheels, so that if you manoeuvre the machine carefully you can cut to the edge of the lawn without the wheels slipping over the edge.

Rotary mower blades revolve at very high speeds—3,000 revolutions a minute or around 200 mph. The blades can fling out stones, bits of wire, glass or children's toys at this high speed which can be dangerous, even lethal.

Some rotary mowers have a grass box, or catcher which is attached usually to one side of the machine. Look for a steel cover over the discharge opening. It will prevent objects

from being flung out when the grass box is not being used, but is lifted out of the way when you attach the box to the mower.

Now that the main patents on the original hover type mower have run out, several firms are producing this type of machine—Quacast, Axco and Crown. As far as I know the only hover type mower which is fitted with a grass catcher is the Plymo DXE model and in a trial run with it for a few weeks last summer I found it a very serviceable machine.

Of course, with these mowers there is always a hazard if they are used stupidly. Most accidents with them have occurred when the operator has been cutting grass on a steep bank and has slipped and has dragged the machine over his feet.

A hover mower is splendid for cutting grass on banks. It can be run on a length of rope, stand firmly on level ground on top of the bank and lower and raise the machine up and down the bank in perfect safety.

A simple yet ingenious development has been the use of small-meshed plastic for grass boxes. A better air flow is obtained in these boxes resulting in better grass collection and a reduction of noise, because the old solid boxes seemed to act as an echo chamber which amplified the engine noise.

Some of the newer petrol-driven mowers are easier to start because of improvements in the design of the engines, improvements in the carburetors and with the introduction of what is known as "solid state" ignition. I do not pretend to understand what this means, but I gather that it supersedes the type of ignition which involved contact breakers that drilled up from time to time and made starting difficult. So one other desirable attribute to ask about in your search for the mower you will love and cherish is solid state ignition.

The manufacturers have also been working on the better silencing of the engines and again if you wish to live in harmony with your neighbours this is something worth checking on.

I am told that sales of "ride-on" mowers have shot up spectacularly in the past two or three years. This is not surprising because garden owners who cannot find garden help or who do not wish to pay £2.50 to £4 an hour for it are now forced to do much of the lawn work. Cutting large areas of grass, trotting behind a large rotary machine

is trying work on a hot day if you are not used to it.

There are various machines available from around £500 to £700. There are, of course, in the higher price range, the mini-tractors which perform much more arduous tasks than cutting grass.

As this is the Year of the Disabled I must mention again the Springfield ZTR ride-on mowers. There are three models, but all have a unique system of controls ideal for the handicapped, elderly and, of course, for the aged bodied. There are no foot pedals. You just have two levers, which you press forwards to go forwards and the harder you press the faster you go. Pull the levers backwards and you go into reverse, move the left lever forward and you turn right, move the right lever forward and you turn left. The machine is "manoeuvrable" that it can be turned round full circle within its own length.

The machine will give a 30 inch cut in the smaller model and a 42 inch cut in the larger model. It has power steering and power brakes. If I had half an acre of grass or more to cut and £1,250 I would without hesitation buy this Springfield ZTR machine. There is no other machine to compare with it if you have difficulty finding one, contact Bob Andrews Ltd., Sunningdale, Berks, the main distributors.

It would be unfashionable, I suppose, today, not to bring Japanese machines into any discussion about garden equipment. There have been a few British models and have produced some good machines. There are rotary mowers and rotary grass cutters. The Japanese produce quiet engines, the quality and reliability of their machines is good. They have not yet produced a rotary mower with a back roller. The Honda 21 rotary mower is worth considering but if you prefer to buy British compare it with the Mountfield M5.

Like my colleague Philip Howard I am concerned about the despoiling of the English language by the infiltration of foreign words, mainly from America, with dubious meanings. First we had this horrible word "planter" to describe a tub, window box or other container in which to grow plants. For me a "planter" is somebody who plants plants. Now we have imported from the USA, the word "Mulcher" applied to a rotary grass cutter. There is considerable doubt about the desirability of leaving the mowings on the lawn. On some soils, in some periods of drought, leaving the cuttings to lie may help the lawn. Or the "thatch" as the professional groundsman call the matted layer of decaying cuttings may be harmful to the turf.

Personally I think that it is unwise to use the word "mulch" in respect of allowing the mowings to lie on the grass. The word "mulch" so far has been used to describe layers of organic material applied to the ground to feed plants and conserve moisture. I think it is premature to claim that mowings left to lie on a lawn can act as a beneficial mulch in the accepted sense of the word in all gardens and in all seasons.

Roy Hay

Travel

A spot of rum and Horatio



One of Antigua's silver beaches: they say there are 365 of them

The sun shines from a brilliant sky, decorated with rocco clouds. Silver beaches, curling like the moon, are rinsed by the sea, while the ocean breaks over protective coral some hundreds of yards away. Trade winds bend the coconut palms and cool the sunbathers.

Antigua claims to have 365 such beaches and I would not doubt it. Around the coast are water sports, snorkelling, water skiing, sunbathing and the rest (generally provided free by your hotel). Some hotels make a feature of tennis, with a court for every 10 or so rooms, and a full time pro in the season. Tennis week with pro-am tournaments and some nearly big-name is a draw for many, in the post Christmas lull. Sailing week later in the year is a major event.

Then there is the rum. The island boasts its own distillery producing Cavalier and Old Mill brands—both terrific—and rum punches come at you from all sides. Rum comes with ginger or by itself. It comes disguised as a coconut milk shake in a pina colada or like a fruit sorbet in the frozen daiquiris sipped by many at the swimming pool.

Sun, sea, sand, sport and rum: if you can be content with that for your holiday, then Antigua is the place. It is one hop from London by air in a British Airways jumbo, and though it is not cheap by European standards, it is cheaper in the hot of season months.

The season runs from around December 15 to April 15, and is largely geared to folk from the northern US and from Canada escaping from the appalling weather they are cursed with. With the recession, and the need to find employment for their fast-growing population during the rest of the year, the Antiguaners are turning to Europe to supply increasing numbers of tourists for the summer and autumn months.

Sometimes during these months the rainy season is supposed to fall. But when that depends on who you ask. Some people will tell you that May is the best month, others declare that it's October, in fact it never rains very much—an hour or so a day even at the wettest time of year, and then in strictly limited areas—for Antigua is a dry island. It lies

low and has, suffered in the past from extended droughts (though there is a hilly area of the island where the lush tropical vegetation is abundant; it is called Fig Tree Drive, figs being what they call bananas locally).

Actually much of the vegetation and salad you will eat in your hotel will have been imported, like all the most thoughtful of the island's food. It does not indicate a specially high standard of gourmet cooking, and indeed the hotel food tends to be bland and international in character with a predominance of steaks and hamburgers. But the seafood is good. Local crayfish (they call it lobster) is hauled from the seabed each day, and there are good harvests of snapper, grouper, kingfish and barracuda, conch and shrimp.

Local restaurants, where one may sample West Indian cuisine and mingle with the residents are regrettably few, but it is worth trying The Yard, slightly up-market and tourist-orientated, or Brother B's very local, where the Antiguan middle class meet each other for exchanging views and gossip. Both are in the ramshackle downtown area of St John's, the capital. A pleasant seafood restaurant, the Cockleshell, is a few kilometres outside town.

The major historic site on the island and well worth a visit is of course Nelson's Dockyard. Captain Horatio Nelson, RN, in command of the Boreas, was stationed here for a time, and careful and thoughtful restoration has turned it into a living museum. A tasteful hotel has been built in the old engineer's house, called the Admiral's Inn. The copper and lumber store has been turned into attractive (though expensive) apartments. The commander's house turned into a museum with historical relics including a four-poster bed that Nelson is reputed to have slept in.

The following hotels are recommended: Curtain Bluff. Excellent taste, strong reefs, facilities and interest, and the best wine cellar in the island are the strong points of this 50-bedroom American run hotel. US\$180 per double including breakfast and dinner per day until April 15, then \$110 per day until December 15. Half Moon Bay: Idyllic setting, strong sports influence

(tennis and golf) with a George manager who used to play for Bishop Auckland and luxurious rooms opening straight on to the beach make this a favourite. US\$145 per day for a standard double until April 6, dropping to \$90 for the summer. The Admiral's Inn: Brick built with the product of ships' ballast, this is the delightfully converted house in the Nelson's Dockyard. The hotel suite boasts its own four poster. Nine bedrooms, the best at \$92 double per day with breakfast and dinner in the season \$68 from April 16 to December 15.

Halcyon Cove: Big American style (100 rooms) hotel on the most popular mile-long beach in the north of the island. Formerly Court Line, now British-run on behalf of the Antigua Government. Panoramic restaurant at the top of a hill raising bus ride. \$155 per double per day, plus breakfast and dinner in the season for a standard room; \$132 from May 1 to December 14.

Halcyon Reef: At the other end of the island and not to be confused, this former Holiday Inn is beautifully located and well-designed around a pool with a view. Winter rate \$156 double with breakfast and dinner from April 15 to December 14 \$90. Barrymore: More a business-man's hotel than a resort, built round an attractive pool, close to the capital of St John's. Family-owned by Antiguan of French descent. \$38 per night, double, with all meals extra in the winter season, and \$28 in the summer.

Antigua Beach: The oldest hotel on the island, and still with a slight touch of Somerset Maugham. \$120 per night double, with breakfast and dinner in the season. Catamaran: On a quiet lagoon close to Nelson's Dockyard, this is a more modest hotel, with 11 rooms opening directly on to the beach. \$48 for the room only (double), in winter, but \$35 from May 6.

All prices quoted will have 15 per cent added—10 per cent for gratuities plus 5 per cent tax. Package tours to Antigua feature in Speedbird and Sovereign holiday brochures, and are in (among others) Thomas Cook, Knott, Wings, Pegasus, and Rankin Kuhn programmes.

Michael Hamlyn

Clive Barnes/New York Notebook

Hysterical drama

The difficulty with Richard Foreman's ontological-hysterical theatre is that in at least one essential way it is more ontological and hysterical than theatre, and I say this merely by way of definition, and in no sense as an adverse criticism.

Ontology is that part of metaphysics that relates to the essence of beings, and therefore to the abstraction of their concept. Hysterical in its general sense suggests an unnatural emotional reaction to a stimulus.

Here at once we have the two major intellectual elements to Foreman's theatre of metaphor and heightened reaction. This is, of course, still theatre. I am beginning to think that anything that takes place in a theatre, including the audience, is theatre. But for people expecting a well-made play by Ibsen or even the wild suggestive imagery of an unadorned by Sam Shepard, Foreman could come as quite a shock.

It is curious that most cultivated Europeans, from London to Warsaw, asked to list the most important figures and companies in the American theatre, after paying tribute to a handful of playwrights, would almost certainly name the likes of Robert Wilson, Joseph Chaikin, Richard Foreman, the Bread and Puppet Theatre, the Mabou Mines, and, of course, Eileen Stewart's La Mama. These are not names that would spring first to American minds.

In Europe, America's avant-garde theatres, or to use a more recent term "alternative" theatres, are widely admired. Europeans with a firmer classic theatrical background and perhaps less concerned with theatre simply as show business, show almost an almost unhealthy interest in the new but at others can show American artists that America itself often neglects.

Joseph Papp has brought the ontological-hysterical under the protection of a new work very typical of the troupe, but perhaps not top-drawer Foreman, who in recent years has seemed happiest in his collaborations with the composer, Stanley Silverman.

This intense and dense work does not have a story—although it is far from abstract—and the remnants of a theme, like the fierce flickerings of a dream that you might have dreamed the night before, are very evident. The piece has been written, directed and scored by Foreman, the scenery is by Heidi Landesman and Foreman himself, the costumes are by Carol Oditz, the lighting by Pat Collins, the sound is by Daniel M. Schreier. When the audience gets to the theatre it is given some kind of plot summary. It would be well advised not to read it. It will certainly confuse and possibly annoy.

The text itself is profoundly influenced by Gertrude Stein, both in its purposefully circuitous writing and in its tender mock profundities, each one of which is like a fortune cookie of experience. There are other influences as well, including that strange pop-culture of British humour, which has been used in the Marx brothers and Helzapoppin and developed into radio's *The Goon Show* and TV's *Monty Python*. Yet *Penguin Toughest* is a visual rather than literary experience.

In a somewhat similar fashion to Wilson's *Four*, as theatre it is attempting to create a first-hand experience rather than the second-hand experience the theatre normally provides. To this end it uses surrealism, that shock of difference, the clearly justifiable use of realistic nonsense, in a fashion dangerously more akin to Salvador Dali than René Magritte.

However, Foreman's stage pictures are always wonderful to look at. Here in this pointless, scintillating real way it is more ontological and hysterical than theatre, and I say this merely by way of definition, and in no sense as an adverse criticism. Ontology is that part of metaphysics that relates to the essence of beings, and therefore to the abstraction of their concept. Hysterical in its general sense suggests an unnatural emotional reaction to a stimulus.

Here at once we have the two major intellectual elements to Foreman's theatre of metaphor and heightened reaction. This is, of course, still theatre. I am beginning to think that anything that takes place in a theatre, including the audience, is theatre. But for people expecting a well-made play by Ibsen or even the wild suggestive imagery of an unadorned by Sam Shepard, Foreman could come as quite a shock.

It is curious that most cultivated Europeans, from London to Warsaw, asked to list the most important figures and companies in the American theatre, after paying tribute to a handful of playwrights, would almost certainly name the likes of Robert Wilson, Joseph Chaikin, Richard Foreman, the Bread and Puppet Theatre, the Mabou Mines, and, of course, Eileen Stewart's La Mama. These are not names that would spring first to American minds.

In Europe, America's avant-garde theatres, or to use a more recent term "alternative" theatres, are widely admired. Europeans with a firmer classic theatrical background and perhaps less concerned with theatre simply as show business, show almost an almost unhealthy interest in the new but at others can show American artists that America itself often neglects.

Joseph Papp has brought the ontological-hysterical under the protection of a new work very typical of the troupe, but perhaps not top-drawer Foreman, who in recent years has seemed happiest in his collaborations with the composer, Stanley Silverman.

This intense and dense work does not have a story—although it is far from abstract—and the remnants of a theme, like the fierce flickerings of a dream that you might have dreamed the night before, are very evident. The piece has been written, directed and scored by Foreman, the scenery is by Heidi Landesman and Foreman himself, the costumes are by Carol Oditz, the lighting by Pat Collins, the sound is by Daniel M. Schreier. When the audience gets to the theatre it is given some kind of plot summary. It would be well advised not to read it. It will certainly confuse and possibly annoy.

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Fred Emery

Did Mr Pym's message go astray?

Sometimes there is uncanny symmetry in the imagery of political turns. Last Thursday *The Times* published a letter from the man who punned the conceit, "You turn if you want, the lady's not for turning"—Ronald Miller, the playwright, knighted on the Prime Minister's recommendation for, among other things, being word-smith for her speech making. The same day there was a front page report of another Conservative speech which suggested that the first half of the phrase Mrs Thatcher delivered to a rapturous Tory conference might have turned out to be more accurate than the last, and better known defiant half.

This new speech now admitted that "common sense tells us that changed circumstances make adjustments necessary in both tactics and timing." The Government, the speech said, "will not be deterred from making this statement of the obvious by accusations of changing course."

The strategy—it needed saying—and the main purposes "would not be abandoned. But the simple truth is that in the light of the deterioration in the world and domestic economic framework, we could neither press ahead regardless of our planned schedule, nor avoid some much needed measures, to deal with some of the distressing effects."

Sir Ronald, meet Mr Francis Pym making his first sortie in public as purveyor of the Government's message. Since his removal from the Defence Ministry in the Christmas reshuffle, Mr Pym has been feeling his way forward as leader of the House, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

and Paymaster General. He is a man of very keen political instinct and he is clearly warning to his task as the Government's political manager, perhaps its campaign manager.

Now, did he get his message across, and what is it? Well, some reactions took it to be a replica of Mr Heath's U-turn; this Government, like his, some two years into its turn was breaking under pressure, doing the sort of cutting and running that Mrs Thatcher has sworn never to countenance. Since Mr Pym is not yet Prime Minister, this interpretation seems rather far fetched.

Yet another reaction was to suppose that Mr Pym was merely cloaking, indeed, defending, the Government's tough policies by talking the language of sensible and deliberate moderation.

By these examples, Mr Pym did not get his message across too well. What he was essentially trying to do, at least in my judgment, was to restore the ring of credibility to the Government's approach. For the past six months, the not-for-turning line has hogged the headlines and the screens. It has given the impression of obduracy, dogmatism, and hard-heartedness. It has allowed the caricature of Tory policies to become virtually the accepted fact.

Since Mrs Thatcher has done most of the preaching, it has turned her into the personification of a government that seems bent on taking us through the industrial desert, if necessary, in order to reach the promised land. However, she too, in one little remembered interview with the BBC's Analysis programme,



Francis Pym: moderation

agreed that she would have to steer round obstacles—and not, by implication, crash through them. Yet, such is the Government's cultivation of the image of motorway madness that it is the defiance that has stuck.

It is nonsense of course. But the lady has protested so much that there can be no alternative, always telling us what she will not do, that a credibility gap has been created over what the Government is doing. Supporters are confused, not to say the uncommitted, when a government looks as if it gets dragged into industrial relief measures, and even a pay policy, and then pretends that it wished it had not.

And then there was "operation optimism" at the turn of the year to promote the idea that the recession was "bottoming out," the

recovery imminent. That has also dented the Government's credibility.

Now it is unlikely that all this will change overnight. The speeches at this weekend will doubtless bring us more of the old refrain. But Mr Pym's attempt—and it has already been welcomed by some of his anxious back benchers—is to speak intelligently, rather than in slogans, about the choices the Government faces. At a desperately difficult time it makes the Government seem less foolish than it sometimes looks, and sounds.

Owing up is never a bad idea. And by acknowledging, frankly, the doubts and confusion besetting the Government, Mr Pym has tried to give assurance that ministers are not blindly sticking to dogma nor refusing to help those in need. Common sense, that is his pivot. Now, in political terms, there is wide divergence over what constitutes common sense. But in Conservative parlance Mr Pym is clearly reminding us that there are practical politicians inside this government, too. They may always see themselves as such, but it does not look like that from the outside.

Whether this is a signal to expect further adjustments by the time of the Budget we shall have to wait and see. The urge to do the maximum possible for industry and business so that they may take advantage of whatever recovery is coming, is now coming through very strongly to the ears of government. Whether ministers will succeed in getting their pre-Budget Cabinet session to review

strategy is uncertain, but it is significant that they are trying again.

The upshot is unlikely to add up to the new enterprise package of government help to back winners. But some ministers would like to see it. But it would now be surprising if there were not rapid moves to ease energy costs and interest rates. Those urging the Government to put constraints on the inflow of foreign funds now claim they are being listened to.

There remain, of course, those ministers who still feel that their economic colleagues have little idea of where they are taking the country. And their view was reinforced this week by some of the Americans with the Congressional budget committee who last week made a visit to London. General out-and-out Reaganites, they said that no one more confused than at No 10 than Professor Alan Walters, the Prime Minister's newly recruited economic adviser. Apparently he insisted to them that the pound's strength had nothing to do with North Sea oil, only with the "real" interest rate. He also claimed that the "real" inflation rate, in the private sector at least, was currently nil. Heaven knows what we will make of Mr Reagan's major package of cuts to be announced next Wednesday and whether the adjustments we are now making will show up there before they have even started.

Any more symmetry? Sir Ronald's latest venture was that the "lady's not for turning." He meant not whence she came, but at the next election. That is really Mr Pym's anxiety, too.

The changing order at Downside

The Abbot of Downside, when he was still Novice Master, used to explain to his charges that the apparent dichotomy of the monastery and the school should not provide an obstacle to the testing of a novice's vocation. He went further and invoked the Rule of St Benedict as evidence that the founder of western monachism had always intended that boys and young men should be educated by monks.

Not, he insisted, that all the members of the monastic community should become schoolmasters; but that those monks who were set by the Abbot to the task of education in a monastic school should remain always, primarily, monks and secondarily teachers.

Last September, the Abbot appointed to be Headmaster of the School a man who shared that view of the Rule of St Benedict and who also retained a firm belief in the importance of rules in the ordering of any society.

Dom Philip Jebb, the new Headmaster, took the view that rules of conduct and behaviour had: rather slipped at Downside. Like any new commander-in-chief, there was a need for a tightening up rather than rigid enforcement of archaic or draconian measures.

The point is, he got tough. Last term he expelled three pupils for taking drugs, not simply because he will not condone the use of drugs in his school but, even more importantly, because the boys in question had given his predecessor a solemn undertaking that they would not take drugs. Their behaviour was, not just illegal, it was dishonourable.

Dom Philip believes that there had been a straight falling off of honesty—not just at Downside, for the Headmaster of Westminster has said the same thing—and he told the School what he thought. He insisted that school uniforms be worn. He called for a "quiet time" on Sunday afternoons. He instituted checks on sports equipment to stamp out "borrowing."

Minor enough touches on the tiller, it must be thought. Not by some senior pupils who two weeks ago mounted a midnight demonstration of more than 150 boys in the quadrangle. It does not sound to have been much of a riot: lavatory rolls were thrown and "there were" chants of "freedom, freedom, no more shit." The press had a field day reporting (or rather "mis-reporting" as the monks feel) the event.

Downside, as Dom Philip explained the other day, is not a public school with a capital "P". It is a monastic school. It has no board of governors, or to be more precise the Abbot is the entire board. The school's roots lie in that Rule of St Benedict and a continuous connection with the Monastery of St Gregory the Great which goes back to the settlement of the monks in France in 1607 and the opening of a school for boys whose faith debarred them from education in England.

It is hardly surprising that the "experiment" of having girls in full-time education at the School should run into difficulties. The 13 girls presently in the sixth form are not boarders in the School but live out with families in the village. That is why Dom Philip finds the present situation so inadequate.

"My own, real worry," he said, "is girls living away from home or else in a corporate body". In the past, the daugh-

ters of lay masters at the School have pursued studies there but have continued to live with their parents. That is the difference and most of the girls agree with Dom Philip that living out presents real problems.

Anyway, after consulting with the Community, and discussing it further with the Abbot, Dom Philip says that he will make a final decision about allowing girls whose families live locally to attend as day pupils.

While making the decision, the Headmaster will no doubt be interested to read, when it appears next Wednesday, the first edition of *Downside Eye*, a newspaper written by and primarily for members of the School. Dom Philip thinks that boys "are ferociously conservative". Some of the letters in the *Eye* might surprise him.

The paper's leading article, however, offers something of an apology for this monk who has recently been so soundly by the press.



Dom Philip Jebb: touches on the tiller

"There is a natural human resentment against change," it states. "The boys had become frustrated with a feeling that Dom Philip was leaving both them and their personal interests out as he proceeded to add new and alter existing School regulations. Nor is it unusual for the boys to feel oppressed when a new Headmaster takes over."

Several girls, both past and present pupils, have contributed to *Downside Eye*. They all seem to take the view that there are too few girls at the School. They also all seem to have enjoyed or be enjoying their time there.

Founded by reporters and photographers, Dom Philip can hardly have had much time to think of academic excellence. He told me that he is worried about results and wants to improve them. Last year the School had its smallest Oxbridge entry ever: only 10 admissions, three of them scholars.

A few years ago, one of Dom Philip's predecessors went all out for academic achievement. Discipline and awareness of the essential monastic nature of the School were not priorities. Some people thought it had ceased to be a happy place.

Could it be that Dom Philip's concern for the Rule and the rules will bring about a renaissance? When he first insisted recently that he was first and foremost a monk and only a Headmaster because the Abbot had told him to be, he was no doubt thinking of the opening sentence of the Rule of St Benedict: "Listen my son to the instructions of your Master, turn the ear of your heart to the voice of a loving Father, accept it willingly and carry it out vigorously."

John Grosier

Sportsview

Why the bull is back in the big time

"Lamotta's life has been so unapologetically gamy, so foully unpalatable, it bends the conventional limits of social understanding." *Sports Magazine*, January, 1981.

At 58 Jake Lamotta, who fought Sugar Ray Robinson five times before surrendering his world middle weight crown to that brilliant boxing machine in 1951, is making a comeback of sorts. He bears the scars of 100 professional fights. His eyes, nose and ears have been played all over his face. He looks like something a five-year-old made out of modelling clay and yet he is doing something most retired boxers dream of: he is having a second crack at fame.

Lamotta is the "hero" of *Raging Bull*, a vivid, brutal depiction of his life in and out of the ring. It is not by any stretch of the imagination, the kind of romantic yarn that Hollywood usually turns out. The film, which opens in London on February 19, is directed by Martin Scorsese, with Robert De Niro as Lamotta: it is a kind of *Elephant Man* of the fight game. It shows Lamotta as he admits he was, a mean, cruel, animalistic man who mutilated his opponents in the ring and beat up his beautiful blonde wife and his brother out of the ring.

It is sport cinema verité and it would seem to be one of the



Jake Lamotta in his heyday and (right) as portrayed by Robert De Niro in Raging Bull

least sympathetic roles in film history. Yet remarkably, as a result of the film, Lamotta finds himself resurrected from obscurity. And he is enjoying the experience.

To start with, Lamotta, who lives alone in Manhattan, received \$100,000 from the film company to be technical director on the film. It enabled him to put on the gloves and climb into the ring with washed actor De Niro, who trained for the role for five months with the dedication of a man preparing for a title fight.

Since the film opened in America to rave reviews (most critics agreed that De Niro will be a leading contender for the 1981 best acting Oscar in

March) the Lamotta book, upon which the film is based, has been re-released and is selling well. Lamotta is touring the country to promote the picture, has signed with a Hollywood agent and is being welcomed in filmtown like a genuine, 24-carat personality.

His 33-year-old son Jack Jr, who now manages his career, said: "The phone hasn't stopped ringing. There's movie parts, TV commercials and dad recently played 'Big Julie', the gangster from Chicago in the musical *Gypsies and Dolls* in a road show." (On the debit side the American tax man is pursuing him, his fifth wife is seeking alimony and his brother is unhappy with the way he is shown in the film

and is suing the film company.)

In the process Lamotta has been trying to explain why he behaved the way he did in the ring and out.

Today Lamotta has slimmed down to 170 pounds and looks neat and well tailored in a smart check suit. He puffs a long cigar and says softly: "I was quite sunnied when I first saw the film. But it was accurate. It's savage and vicious—but that's the kind of guy I was. I was nasty...and I'm not proud of it at all. But you know, it's like it was a different life for me."

In one scene Lamotta is seen taking a dive in his November 1947 fight against an unknown middleweight, Billy Fox. "Sure-

I did," he says. "It's no lie. I admitted it to the Kefauver committee investigating mob influences in the fight game. But I did it as I could get a title shot. It worked. I got my chance and beat Marcel Cerdas."

In fact, Lamotta adds that he had to "kick back" some \$20,000 of his purse to the promoters. "Once they wanted to match me with Randy Turpin," says Lamotta, "I would have given anyone a chance. But I never came off."

Lamotta floored Sugar Ray Robinson once, but lost on four other occasions—including the crucial title fight. Not long after losing his crown Lamotta, considered one of the

greatest all-action fighters, retired. He put on nearly five stones and took to drink. He divorced his second wife (he has married and divorced three more times since) and was sent to prison on a morals charge.

But now he insists he is reformed and basking in the newly found limelight.

"I'm a mellow guy today," he notes, "so mellow I keep falling asleep. Now I have the patience of a saint. You'll lose your temper before me. I lost the title in 1951," he says in his thick Bronx accent, "and 30 years later I got it back again."

Ivor Davis

Letter from Algiers

First find the map of the Casbah

Algiers is a good place to get lost—in large measure because it is almost impossible to beg, buy or borrow a map of the place. Stealing is a different matter, but more of that later.

The city is built on a hill and, if it cannot be hid, it nevertheless hides a multitude of things, especially its street plans. Also, because it is built on the seaward side of the hill, it affords a magnificent series of views of the Mediterranean plus calf-searing exercise for the lost walker.

Down the ages the hillside has clearly dominated the outlook of the town-planners, who were forced to zigzag the roads running up from the seafarers along routes which would make the most homesick mountain goat feel at ease.

Given that walking the hillside tends to be the dominant memory of the visitor it is perhaps surprising to discover that the city's name is derived from the Arabic *al-djazaïr*, which means "the islands." But it was the myriad of little islands then to be found in the bay which first attracted Emir Bologhine. Ziri built there in 935 AD.

Queuing for berths

Since then the islands have been joined together and incorporated into the port, which currently has its work more than cut out to accommodate the merchant fleets queuing for berths. At night the whole bay—viewed of course from the hillside—seems like a bright city with the lights shining out from 50 or more ships anchored there waiting their turn.

The islands have largely disappeared and so, too, has the reason which led some gallic poetic soul to nickname the city *Alger la Blanche*. It is still true that nearly every building was once painted white, with blue window frames and cream doorways, but many a year since most of them saw a paintbrush, especially round the Casbah.

In fairness the winter months are not the best for visiting usually sunny Algeria. Rain cascades down that hillside like so many mini-niagaras and most of them seem to fall out into the Casbah.

In the words of the official guide book, the Casbah is a "white triangle surrounded by minarets offering so many stairways going down towards the sea, with the terraces of its close-packed houses, clinging to the djebel, leaning over the streets, noisy and passionate with the exciting perfumes of incense, musk and spices, arousing an insatiable curiosity."

The Casbah at the height of a winter rainstorm is not quite like that. The perfumes are not all "passionate". No polite guide book could describe them. The mud is clinging. White triangles are not over-evident.

But minarets are. Algiers, for all that the French rebuilt the waterside with a long, graceful out-of-place colonnade, is rich in its mosques. They are warm and bright and well-used by young and old—although outside the fisherman's mosque one very wet afternoon a young couple could be seen kissing with greater devotion than they were showing for the amplified calls to prayer from the loudspeaker on the nearby minaret.

The Casbah in the rain seems somehow more true to its past than the Casbah in the sunshine. The mud, the murkiness in dark alleyways where once the FLN found safe

refuge but where Frenchmen feared to tread, the wet cats picking over rubbish heaps, the suddenly bright windows of goldsmiths' shops defying the gloom, the damp air of the market place, heavy with the smell of oranges, the men, their brown burnous splattered with mud, sitting in fluorescent-lit cafes sipping tea—all this creates a teeming atmosphere that would evaporate in the sunshine.

Largely a sixteenth century Turkish creation, the Casbah is said to have inspired one of the great architects of the present century, Le Corbusier. His ideas of living togetherness in apartment blocks are, indeed, the obvious result of a close study of everyday Casbah life.

Life on a hillside may be hard on the calf muscles of the aging tourist but it is splendid for children who seem everywhere in Algiers. It provides a marvellous toboggan course for homemade wheeled soapboxes or for skateboards. A piece of cardboard or a collapsed plastic bottle are all that is necessary to turn a steep slope into a slide.

The other mainstay of play is a small round shiny tobacco tin used as a marker for the endless games of hopscotch on every pavement, or as a kind of puck for impromptu sidewalk hockey. Alternatively, small plastic bags stuffed with old socks make football which does not roll away down the slope if a player misses them.

For the foot tourist, however, getting lost is childplay.

Men with blue paint

The map is rain splattered now, although it was of little use. Some years ago now in a fit of nationalistic zeal men with blue paint brushed out the street names written in French so that only those who can read Arabic can discover where they are.

Moreover the network of alleyways and lanes obviously proved too much for the poor mapmaker to submit to paper. The entire area is therefore rendered as an appropriately coloured brown smudge.

The best advice for the lost tourist, therefore, is not to steal a map but to follow the children as they ride or slide down the hillside towards the sea. Once the Mediterranean comes into view at the far end of a staircase the persistent walker should be able to find himself before long beside the seaside and a taxi rank. Or a stop for one of those little green buses that crawl slowly up the hillside full of people.

Ian Murray

Cornering the dogfight market

Out of the sky a noisy grey smudge appears on a low approach to the runway. As it gets nearer white smoke billows from an engine; a single wheel of its undercarriage folds down. The roar of this lumbering giant, the B-17 Flying Fortress, is deafening as it makes its land. One of its four radial engines sputters. Suddenly, from out of the sun comes a high-pitched screaming as two...three...four Japanese Zero fighters dive for the kill. Their machine guns fire on the up and put it in his pocket, monsieur would probably find I was looking the other way at the time."

The place is Rebel Field—Harrington international airport, Texas, in the fertile lower Rio Grande Valley on the Mexican border. The aircraft are part of the Confederate Air Force "Ghost Squadron" based there.

It began with the purchase of a war-surplus North American P-51 Mustang by Lloyd Nolan and a group of pilots soon after the Second World War. Gradually, as the club grew, more aircraft were added.

By 1963, the collection of American WWII fighters was complete, and the CAF turned its interest to light and medium bombers. Finally, they expanded to include all combat aircraft of the war, from both the Allied and Axis powers.



In action again: a P-40 Warhawk, one of the legendary Flying Tigers of the Second World War

By 1970, the CAF had established itself in a flight museum in Harrington, with local chapters in other parts

of the United States and the world. The British wing was recently inaugurated at Wellesbourne Mounford airfield near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Each year more than 100,000 spectators travel to Harrington during the October Columbus Day weekend to watch the air show. It is unique in recreating actual air battles, as accurate and vivid as any staged for a film. Massive explosive charges are touched off on the ground to simulate bomb blasts, while the public address broadcasts machine-gun fire. As many as 30 or 40 piston-driven aircraft fill the sky at the same time.

The programme usually starts with a lone biplane with Spanish Republican markings zooming over the 40,000 specta-

tors. The commentator asks them to close their eyes for 10 seconds and open them during the Spanish Civil War. Close on the tail of the biplane is a Messerschmitt ME109 of the German Condor Legion. As the biplane makes a second pass the machine guns fire, the aircraft disappears behind a bill and there is a spectacular explosion.

Other scenes depict the attack on Pearl Harbour, the Battle of Britain, the Battles of Midway and the Coral Sea. The CAF achieved notoriety in October 1976, when it simulated the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, led by its B-29, piloted by General Paul Tibbets who originally piloted "Enola Gay" on August 6, 1945.

The Japanese Government lodged a formal complaint with the United States Embassy in Tokyo, which expressed regret for any offence caused.

It is not unknown for one of the CAF's "wars" to be called off for 15 minutes while a Western Airlines Boeing 737 lands, with Japanese Zero fighters and B-29s circling until it was down.

In the words of the CAF: "The shooting began with a lightning attack by three Stukas on a bridge in Poland, and ended with the flight of a lone B-29 over a city in Japan. It was a terrible time. It was a wonderful time. And everyone who lived it agrees on this: It was a time to remember."

Ted Trott



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GOVERNMENTS CANNOT OPT OUT

Closures have always been an emotive issue in the coal industry. Recent events have combined to produce a situation which an enforced programme of closures could bring Mrs Thatcher's government and the National Union of Mineworkers to serious conflict. Until now, Mrs Thatcher has avoided a 'raucous confrontation' with the miners, though her government is tested during its first year of national steel strike.

Despite some early warnings in the closing stages of last year, the seriousness of the crisis coal has erupted onto the political stage with surprising suddenness. Economic forces have effect invalidated the assumptions on which the Government used its strategic plan for the industry, embodied in last year's Coal Act. No one, however, predicted, when that Act reached a statute book, the speed with which it would be overtaken by events.

Coal output has been rising progressively. Even productivity, an industry which over past years has established a national reputation for absenteeism, has been rising rapidly as well. In fact the problems of the National Coal Board spring from the combination of falling external demand and rising internal production. A greatly improved industrial performance has come a serious victim of the recent recession. The fall in the demand for electricity and for steel, the two biggest industrial consumers of coal, have had a disastrous effect on demand. This is reinforced by the effects of the exceptionally mild winter, which combined effect of this sharply lower demand is that it has reduced stocks of coal by some 6 million tonnes higher.

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VOBBLES AND DIVISIONS OF THE NON-ALIGNED

In her welcoming speech last Monday to the non-aligned foreign ministers' conference in New Delhi Mrs Gandhi complained that all such meetings of the non-aligned countries were afflicted by the attempt of the 'big powers' to sow suspicion and division among the members. After yesterday's declaration was finally agreed she might be willing to concede that the enough division exists within the movement these days, whatever unspecified actions may be attributed to the big powers.

With its inflated membership of ninety-six states, the ideals affirmed at Bandung in 1955 and affirmed at the first conference of non-aligned countries in 1961 have been progressively lured. The fact that Cuba was the host country for the 1979 non-aligned summit was significant of that. And at that meeting it was necessary to deplore the war between Somalia and Ethiopia, and in Delhi it has been necessary to find that Iran and Iraq, equally, are not devoid of 'neutral'.

Of course, few of the governments represented in Delhi are without some bias in their world

view. The question: on whose side are you non-aligned? would not often be indignantly dismissed as an Irish joke. For all that, the non-aligned movement as defined by its founders, Tito, Nehru and Nasser, has not been without effect in the past as a steady influence in times of tension. With its much larger membership it seems likely to be less influential.

Circumstances as well as members have changed. In the first half of its twenty years existence, covert CIA action in 'destabilising' governments—not to mention the earlier eviction from power of Mossadek in Iran—pointed criticism more often at the Americans and the Western powers generally, than at the Russians or their close allies. Since Czechoslovakia in 1968 and the American withdrawal from Vietnam, the movement has become more ready to find fault with the Russians. The Russians, in turn, have insisted that the movement should be guided by 'progressive principles'; the danger lies only in reactionary forces such as imperialism and capitalism. In 1979 Cuba did not succeed in lining up the movement behind

the opinion that the Soviet Union was the 'natural ally' of the non-aligned.

Now Kampuchea and Afghanistan have put Vietnam and the Soviet Union in the dock. Both were clear-cut issues deserving of condemnation by the non-aligned. But the condemnation has not been as forthright as it should have been. As the host country India has been partly to blame both for trying to mute criticism of the Russians and by being out of step with all her Asian neighbours in recognizing the Heng Samrin government set up by Vietnamese military power in Kampuchea.

It is partly a tribute to the non-aligned movement that shifts of power in many small countries can now happen without exciting much tension among any major powers, communist or non-communist. Such governments are necessarily shifting in their pro-western or pro-communist sympathies. If this tolerance is to become habitual at least the non-aligned must be firm in holding to their principle that invasion by an outside power is an unacceptable way of changing a government it may be.

by the great surrealists have already been somewhat repaired by the readiness of the owners to sell works from the James collection privately to the nation. But a great collection is more than the sum of its parts. The dispersal of earlier collections—Charles's paintings, Sir Thomas Lawrence's drawings—still sometimes rankles faintly, centuries later. The influence of surrealism on us all is attested by current vogues in beer and cigarette advertising, as much as by the popular success of last year's Dali show at the Tate. Works commissioned or bought by an associate of the artists, as in this case, gain an additional significance from the fact, and from being housed together, which the well-balanced holdings of public collections often lack. This can be seen in the haunting concentration of surrealist pictures and artefacts from the James collection in the Brighton Museum—but that concentration has already been thinned by small problems to do with space and administration. Thinking of the dome under which those works and the others in the sale-room catalogues might have been permanently gathered, it is hard not to gnash the teeth.

only of Sir Derek Ezra and his board, how the NCB comes to terms with the financial problems that flow from the unexpectedly deep recession.

In practice, however, if the financial strait-jacket in which the NCB finds itself forces events into a pattern which leads to a national coal strike, the Government will in the end be involved in cases where a government is going to be embroiled at the end of its usually good politics for to have some notion from the start of how it intends to handle matters. The lesson of the steel strike was that the waverings of government policy were confusing to the participants. The Government should adopt a clear and consistent line which it believes it can adhere to no matter how long a dispute may last.

In the present circumstances the Government should consider whether the doctrine developed by Mr Francis Pym in his speech this week to Pymey Conservatives should not be applied to the coal industry. He suggested that policies and doctrines might have to be modified to fit the realities of the political and industrial situation. Following this line of argument, it would be reasonable for the Government to temper the wind of the recession somewhat and adjust the financial limits a bit. On the other hand it must be right that the coal industry should be required to adjust to the now lower trend-line of demand for coal in the foreseeable future. The National Union of Miners must be convinced that this government is not going to use taxpayers' money to finance the production of coal for which there is no evidence of any likely future demand.

From Mr Vernon Bartlett
Sir, Your impressive opinion poll (report, February 9) recording a lead for the Liberals and the social democrats, together with the Labour party, seems to derive from two different causes. One, of course, is the general dislike of the undemocratic tendencies shown by Mr Benn and his followers. The other cause is the loss of respect for the House of Commons itself which has developed since broadcasting of parliamentary debates began.

Previously, public opinion had not sufficiently realized the extent to which the two-party system encourages—almost compels—MPs to behave like supporters of rival football teams. The degree to which the few Liberal members were able to impose checks on the Labour Government during the 'winter of discontent' did something, but not enough, to persuade electors that a vote for a centre party was not a foolish bet. Now, for the first time since the war, there is a real possibility that the next Parliament will contain a majority of members who actually want to agree.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BARTLETT,
Milton, Yeovil,
Somerset,
February 9.

From Mr J. C. Stott
Sir, For sheer bumbling cant your editorial, 'The sooner the better' (February 10) will take some beating. Since the early sixties this nation has faced two fundamental problems: the growth in the power of the unions, which has curtailed freedom and increased unemployment; and the growth of inflation. Successive governments have attempted to tackle these two problems but have when the going got difficult, 'cut and run'.

We now have a Prime Minister who has shown courage and determination in dealing with these fundamental issues. She has grasped the nature of the problems and to judge is simply to retreat. The short-term effect is predictably painful and unpopular.

Prospects and personalities in political leadership

From Mr David Alton, MP for Liverpool, E4 (Liberal)
Sir, In the leadership election which will be held by the Liberal Party, where each member of the party had one vote, only two constituencies voted unanimously for either of the candidates. Mr David Stott, Selkirk and Peebles voted unanimously for Mr Steel, and Liverpool, Edge Hill, voted unanimously for Mr John Bardon.

Since that election Mr Steel has led the Liberal Party with great vigour and ability. His success is clearly recognized outside the party as well. In a recent opinion poll twice as many people expressed their confidence in Mr Steel as in either Mrs Thatcher or Mr Foot, and in a poll reported in your own columns earlier this week (February 9), some 21 per cent of the people interviewed said that they would vote for Mr Steel's Liberal Party.

With the foregoing in mind, I found your recent leader (February 10) reviewing our political leaders remarkable for its omission of any reference to Mr Steel. Your own ORAC poll the previous day showed that Mr Steel remains the public's favourite choice, if narrowly; over Mrs Williams as leader of any new alliance. So what claim can be made for Mrs Williams's preferential treatment in your columns?

Certainly, she has been a Cabinet minister while Mr Steel has not. Mr Steel, on the other hand, has the credit of having led a lonely election fight by the Liberals, and having warned repeatedly against the social democratic party while the social democrats have only belatedly come to recognize.

Is that, perhaps, why the Liberal leader remains the first preference of the electorate? Consistently against the odds is recognized in preference to vacillation on the part of a party who enjoyed the fruits of the old order.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ALTON,
House of Commons,
February 12.

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Certainly, she has been a Cabinet minister while Mr Steel has not. Mr Steel, on the other hand, has the credit of having led a lonely election fight by the Liberals, and having warned repeatedly against the social democratic party while the social democrats have only belatedly come to recognize.

Is that, perhaps, why the Liberal leader remains the first preference of the electorate? Consistently against the odds is recognized in preference to vacillation on the part of a party who enjoyed the fruits of the old order.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ALTON,
House of Commons,
February 12.

From Mr Vernon Bartlett
Sir, Your impressive opinion poll (report, February 9) recording a lead for the Liberals and the social democrats, together with the Labour party, seems to derive from two different causes. One, of course, is the general dislike of the undemocratic tendencies shown by Mr Benn and his followers. The other cause is the loss of respect for the House of Commons itself which has developed since broadcasting of parliamentary debates began.

Previously, public opinion had not sufficiently realized the extent to which the two-party system encourages—almost compels—MPs to behave like supporters of rival football teams. The degree to which the few Liberal members were able to impose checks on the Labour Government during the 'winter of discontent' did something, but not enough, to persuade electors that a vote for a centre party was not a foolish bet. Now, for the first time since the war, there is a real possibility that the next Parliament will contain a majority of members who actually want to agree.

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From Mr David Alton, MP for Liverpool, E4 (Liberal)
Sir, In the leadership election which will be held by the Liberal Party, where each member of the party had one vote, only two constituencies voted unanimously for either of the candidates. Mr David Stott, Selkirk and Peebles voted unanimously for Mr Steel, and Liverpool, Edge Hill, voted unanimously for Mr John Bardon.

Since that election Mr Steel has led the Liberal Party with great vigour and ability. His success is clearly recognized outside the party as well. In a recent opinion poll twice as many people expressed their confidence in Mr Steel as in either Mrs Thatcher or Mr Foot, and in a poll reported in your own columns earlier this week (February 9), some 21 per cent of the people interviewed said that they would vote for Mr Steel's Liberal Party.

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Care of ancient monuments

From Mr Andrew Selkirk
Sir, There are two answers to the problems currently facing ancient monuments, short-term one, and a long-term one. The short-term answer was given to me by a young lady who was the curator of a monument, who said that she had appointed her son to be the person allowed to do any gardening; she was forced to spend her days, bored to the back teeth, knitting and reading, while outside workmen did the garden. Let the curators do gardening and maintenance—the modern archaeologist is versatile—and costs could fall rapidly. Unfortunately there are, of course, the public services to be dealt with, which is why Mr Heseltine is trying to hove off sites wherever possible.

In the longer term we must all realize that a fundamental shift in economics is taking place. Since the first Ancient Monuments Act in 1932 the list of ancient monuments has grown longer and longer, with new ones added every year. This cannot go on *ad infinitum*. The party's over, and we must face a future in which government spending will at most remain stable, but is rather more likely to decline steadily for the rest of our lifetimes. This means that those of us who wish to conserve the past, must do something about it ourselves, and local archaeological societies up and down the country must be encouraged to take over ancient monuments, as they so often did in the 1930s.

Can I make two requests? Firstly, can the Ancient Monuments Board extract from the Department of the Environment the profit-loss account for each guardianship monument so we can begin to see the parameters of the problem? And secondly, will Mr Heseltine please continue to keep in cold storage the half-baked Ancient Monuments Act that was rushed through, virtually unexamined, in the closing hours of the last Parliament? He has so astutely twigged, if this were to be scrapped, it would make matters worse.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW SELKIRK, Editor,
Current Archaeology,
9 Nassington Road, NW3,
February 11.

New paths for old

From Dr A. W. Williams
Sir, There has been much concern about public footpaths during the progress through Parliament of the Wildlife and Countryside Bill (leading article, February 2; Cyril Bainbridge's article, November 8, 1980; etc.).

But the rigorous preservation of any ancient right of way the best way to safeguard public access to the countryside? These old tracks, routed from farm to farm, to school, to church, to market owe their originality to the purposes they originally served and the local farming and rural life. Many are still so used and perhaps always will be. But as actual tracks (as opposed to rights of way) very many have totally disappeared, despite the contrary evidence of Ordnance Survey maps and the well-meaning notices on tracks. Walkers are thus lured on to tracks less minor or farmland from which they emerge to the likely detriment of a wall or fence they are obliged to climb.

Many of the rights of way are increasingly being used for unauthorized encroachment upon cultivation or grazing. Some go right through the farmyard, some even across the front or back doorstep of the house, inviting gross intrusion upon work or privacy. What is certain is that the particular interest of the present-day country walkers, and a great many of them do not serve those interests particularly well.

So let the local councils be empowered to close particular rights of way, but let them be empowered also to require the landowner to maintain or repair or substitute alternative or new ones better aligned for today's circumstances, where a present functional or recreational use is made. And to see that they are maintained as discernible tracks with stiles or gates, and not as mere lines of fence, and necessary footbridges.

Perhaps Ordnance Survey maps might then become, in time, practical guides where to walk and not to walk, instead of the interesting historical records they now are of our forebears' manner of life.

Yours sincerely,
A. W. WILLIAMS,
Renshaw,
Bardon Mill,
Hexham, Northumberland.

Arts Council grant

From Mr Charles Osborne
Sir, Mr Derek Parker (February 11) may be reassured to know that the Editor of The London Magazine already knows, which is that the Arts Council has no plans to discontinue subsidy to the magazine, which it has subsidised continuously since 1965. If The London Magazine ceases publication in the near future it will not be because it is in any danger of losing its Arts Council

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES OSBORNE,
Literature Director,
Arts Council of Great Britain,
9 Lorne Ave, WC2,
February 11.

Was that a record?
From Mr P. J. A. Smith
Sir, Mr Oliver Weaver, writing from Lincoln's Inn (February 11) apparently finds it dull that the new Communities Bill should empower the Secretary to destroy a document which he has kept for more than 10 years but require him to keep a copy of it. It is, in fact, very sensible and I am sure the time will come when even the heavy towers of Lincoln's Inn will be generated by the news of microfilm and its advantages.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. A. SMITH,
The Strand, W.C.2,
Feb 10/81.

مكتبة الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

By three hours of inaudibility and incoherence: "If our humble efforts have been able to suggest to anyone here assembled that the countless beauties of this Titanic work, we have indeed been amply repaid", a voice from the audience cried, more in sorrow than in anger: "Why didn't you speak like that before?" A murmur of assent ran through the house. The audience melted away bewildered by what they had seen and had not heard.

As far as your comparison is concerned there must be some mis-take, surely.
Yours faithfully,
A. SCHOULOFF,
59 Lyndhurst Grove, SE15.

From Mr Arthur Freeman
Sir, It may be tempting but it would be misleading to emphasize the topicality of the reference in *Man and Superman* (letter, February 10) to "three social democrats" who "are not on speaking terms" and who "have now put before us three distinct and incompatible views of social democracy".

When the play was written, at the beginning of the century, social democrats were not what they are now. As represented by the social democratic parties on the Continent and the Social Democratic Federation in this country, they were extremists on the left of the socialist movement, rather than moderates in its centre as they became after the Russian Revolution, or renegades on its right as they have become today. Shaw was in fact describing the sectarian Marxists of his day, who haven't changed much in 80 years, even if the name they once used has been adopted by their enemies.

Yours etc.
ARTHUR FREEMAN,
818 Whitechapel High Street, E1.

From Mrs M. M. Checkfield
Sir, In your leader (February 10) you mention three points on which you might be at variance with a new social democratic party while taking the rough with the smooth. But surely a fundamental principle is involved.

I know that education is (perhaps fortunately) small beer in political programmes, but for a government to assume monopoly in any department of life concerned with minds (press, religion, education) in an act of right to set up or maintain private institutions of education is an assault on freedom itself befitting only an authoritarian country.

Debating whether people buy a superior education, or whether independent schools are socially divisive, is secondary to the preservation of the basic right of parents to educate their children as they think fit. Religious safeguards are not enough; there are other articles of educational faith. To imply that it is acceptable for people to spend money they have on luxury cars or expensive holidays but not permissible to spend it on their children's education, is an affront to all who care for either freedom or culture.

Liberalism used to stand for the rights of the individual. Now we wait for "liberals" to utter a libelous word. There must be a considerable number of people who would welcome a middle party, but only if this totalitarian threat is removed.

Yours faithfully,
M. M. CHECKFIELD,
16 Cedar Way,
Henfield, Sussex.

From Mrs Nancy Irwin
Sir, Mr Cross's offer (February 6) of the Co-operative Party as a suitable vehicle for Labour Party dissidents is less than fair to either party.

His criticism of the Labour Party as "corporatist and undemocratic" actually applies best to the present unfortunate structure of the Co-operative Party, whose annual conference card votes are based not on delegates, or even membership, but on the number of retail sales of association Co-op societies. How can a trade union block vote be criticized by a cornflake-sale vote?

Secondly, invocation of the Rochdale Pioneers is irrelevant, where it is not misleading: a Rochdale principle (wrong to my mind, but their principle, none the less) of political neutrality—scarcely the ideal launching pad for a political party, however vague and mawkish its views.

Co-operative ideals are the antithesis of the views peddled by these "moderates". The right of ownership and control is best vested entirely in workers and consumers; our Co-operative commonwealth has no place for private profit; that participatory democracy is not an ideal objective, but an everyday fact; that we can best work for peace by not making war—and on that basis stand for immediate unilateral nuclear disarmament.

I suspect the Gang of Three would find us Co-operators uncomfortable bedfellows. We're not as tolerant as they look, especially when it comes to capitalism.

Yours faithfully,
NANCY IRWIN,
11 Chisholm Road, Croydon.

From Mr Bruce Martin
Sir, As designer in 1965 of the much 8 telephone kiosk, I object to the suggestion, once again (report, February 11) that the kiosks should be painted yellow.

I turned the idea down at that time on the reasonable grounds that the colour red is associated with royalty and the Crown is the standard colour for kiosks in this country. It is easy to recognize in time of need or in a crucial moment, and a dark hue that does not readily show dirt as would yellow.

These arguments were accepted in 1965 and it would be interesting to know who is still charged with the responsibility of the kiosks that the people of Manchester and Liverpool are likely to best work his endeavours.

Yours sincerely,
BRUCE MARTIN,
The Old Cottage,
Bury Green,
Little Baddow, Warr,
Hertfordshire.

From Mr R. P. Rhodes
Sir, Your article in "Social Focus" (February 11) accused Southern Gas of disconnecting the supply of gas to a customer simply because she forgot to pay her bill over Christmas. This is nonsense and is a gross injustice to those people on my staff who have the difficult job of disconnecting gas supplies to customers who refuse to pay for the gas they use.

Our powers of disconnection are used responsibly and as a last resort, only after we have tried to come to an acceptable arrangement with the customer to pay for the debt. A code of practice, safeguards supplies to those customers who are in genuine need of assistance and the National Gas Consumers' Council has not come across a single case where the code has been contravened by Southern Gas.

Before disconnecting a gas supply the customer receives a final reminder; a letter warning that the supply could be disconnected;

copies of the code of practice; and a notice of the date when disconnection may take place. If we have any doubts at all we also notify the Department of Health and Social Security of our intention to cut off a supply and advise the customer to the same. Disconnecting does not take place after the DHSS is able to assist.

The gas industry is fully aware of its social responsibilities and acts accordingly, but without the powers to disconnect supplies to paying customers would be required to subsidize the tiny minority who do not pay and this would be an unfair burden on them.

The number of gas disconnections is not, in fact, on a downward trend as stated in your article, and the facts of the case referred to are very different from those you reported.

Yours faithfully,
R. P. RHODES,
Chairman, Southern Gas,
Rivermill House,
132 Grosvenor Road, SW1,
February 13.

From Mr Leslie Littlewood
Sir, Once the fellow-travelling fifth column, more efficient by far than the fascist auxiliaries of Emilio Mola, had forced the abandonment of "proletarian" politics, the Labour Party had in its midst a Trojan horse and the battle was lost.

Those now in control want Mrs Williams and others to stay inside and continue the struggle. This could only lead to the subversion of the neutral element of the social democratic element. Rather than hang around like Cassandra, Shirley will do better, like a latter-day Aeneas, to set out on her wanderings, in the hope of establishing a new and more powerful political entity which will survive long after her (and my) former party is razed and forgotten.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE LITTLEWOOD,
35 Arthur Court,
Queensway, W2,
February 11.

From Mr Alexander Schoulloff
Sir, Your leader on Tuesday (February 10) said that Mr Foot models himself on Sir Henry Irving's well-known performance as King Lear. Laurence Irving says this of his grandfather's performance: "Henry Arthur Jones wrote that on this night he was slow, laboured, mannered, unimpaired, scarcely, feebly feeble, falling feebly where all representations of Lear fail". Irving seemed to fling away all restraint, yet he came before the curtain at the end of the play. Irving said to his audience, who were weary and baffled

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COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 13: His Excellency, Mr. Ali Arshad was received in audience by the Queen and presented to Her Majesty: Mr. Amir Usman (Minister), Mr. Qudusdin Aziz (Minister-Information), Mr. Qudusdin Sajid Akbar (Defence and Naval Affairs), Mr. Muhammad Durban (Counsellor), Mr. Wajidatullah (Counsellor), Mr. M. Zafar Iqbal (Counsellor) and Mr. Hafizullah (Counsellor).

Begin Arshad had the honour of being received by the Queen.

Sir John Graham (Deputy Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) who had the honour of being received by Her Majesty was presented to Her Majesty by the Queen and the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

The Right Hon. Sir Angus Macdonald was received by the Queen and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Paymaster General.

The Hon. George Fergusson had the honour of being received by Her Majesty and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Thistle worn by his late father.

The Lord Skelmersdale had the honour of being received by the Queen upon his appointment as a Lord in Waiting.

The Queen this afternoon opened the two millionth house built under the National House-Building Council Ten Year Programme.

The Mayor of Richmond-upon-Thames (Councillor Mrs. Nora Miller) and the Chairman of the National House-Building Council (Sir Peter French), and, after unveiling a commemorative plaque, viewed an exhibition of the Council's work.

The Hon. Mary Morrison, Mr. Robert Aspinwall, Mr. Gordon Leader Adam Wise were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor of the University of St. Andrews, today visited the University and chaired the Annual Court Meeting.

Major John Cargill was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 13: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman of the British Overseas Trade Board, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon from Kuwait.

Lieutenant-Commander Richard Buckley, RN, was in attendance.

Birthdays today

Sir John Clark, 55; Lord Garner, 73; Sir Derrick Rolfe-Brown, 58; Mr. Kevin Keegan, 30; Professor Sir Charles Gairdner, 70; the Hon. Hastings J. Phillips, 77; Professor R. J. V. Pulver, 84; Dr. Albert Simons, 60; Sir Nicol Stenhouse, 70.

TOMORROW: Sir Max Aitken, 71; Sir Harold Bealey, 72; Miss Claire Bloom, 50; Sir Stephen Brown, 75; Mr. Frank Woolley, 54; Sir Douglas Howard, 84; His Honour Christmas Humphreys, 80; the Earl of Mar and Kellie, 60; Sir Pauline Scudamore, 60; Sir Geoffrey Stansfield, 64; Sir George Taylor, 77; Professor Sir Harold Thompson, 73; the Right Rev. R. W. Woods, 67.

Latest wills

Dr. John Francis Varley, of Leston, Suffolk, left estate valued at £335,595 net after smaller bequests he left the residue equally between the National Trust, RSPB and Cambridge Preservation Society.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Baiding, Mr. Richard Courtney, of Christchurch, Dorset, company director, £10,000; Deighton, Mr. Dennis Williams, of Bridgewater, Somerset, £200,829; Hawkins, Mr. Horace Leslie, of Bishopswood, Bristol, £140,447; May, Mrs. Ernestine, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, £157,991; Noyce, Mr. Reginald William, of New Milton, Hampshire, £190,636.

The ministry and the service of the Word

It is unfortunate that many of those who have worked long and patiently to restore the unity of the Christian Church in this country should have concentrated their thoughts (and their votes) around the single question of the validity of ministerial orders. Solve that problem, it has been said, and all others will be solved. The Second Vatican Council had only to reverse *Apostolicae Curiae*, and it would have taken its place for ever in the annals of English history. John Paul II has only to do what the Council failed to do, and his coming visit will be even more momentous than the sending of St. Augustine by St. Gregory the Great. Dr. Runcie has only to stand by his side and say the same words of eucharistic consecration in the *Ecclesia Anglicana* and the *Ecclesia Romana* will once again be *una* and not *duo*. Simple and not simple enough. It is too simple in that it sees the Church as dependent entirely on the possession by individuals of special sacramental powers, so that wherever these powers are being correctly used, the Church is being built up, and wherever these powers are not possessed and in action, the Church is not being built up. An Anglican clergyman, for instance, can be convinced that he has these powers, and that his church is being built up, exactly what a Greek Orthodox or a Roman Catholic clergyman is doing in Athens or Rome. He may not be satisfied that a Methodist, for example, has them, and therefore does not want to envisage union with the Methodists without requiring some form of words. Another Anglican clergyman can be equally convinced that such powers as he has are already shared by the Methodist clergy; he therefore may not favour a scheme of union requiring any kind of re-ordination, lest his own present status be interpreted in an exclusive sense that his reputation and schemes can founder because rejected at the same time from these two contrary points of view.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr. N. J. T. Sanders and Miss J. E. Hughes. The engagement is announced between the son of Mr. Sanders, of 10, St. James's Place, London, and the daughter of Mr. Hughes, of 10, St. James's Place, London.

Mr. R. Aspinwall and Miss N. L. S. Darby. The engagement is announced between the son of Mr. Aspinwall, of 10, St. James's Place, London, and the daughter of Mr. Darby, of 10, St. James's Place, London.

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Luncheons

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OBITUARY

ADMIRAL SIR CHARLES DANIEL

Varied service in two world wars

Admiral Sir Charles Daniel, KCB, CBE, DSO, who died on February 11 at the age of 86, was a former wireless specialist, and had served with distinction in many of the higher staff appointments, including that of Third Sea Lord. In the Second World War, he was Director of Plans and Assistant Chief of Combined Operations; and when a British battle fleet was sent into the Pacific and depended so largely on what became known as the Fleet Train, he was the first to be responsible for the latter's Vice-Admiral (Administration). Charles Daniel was born on June 23, 1874, the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Charles James Daniel, and Agnes Margaret, daughter of Admiral Thomas Sumner. From Southcliffe School, Folkestone, he entered the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, in 1891, and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant in 1901. He was appointed as midshipman to the battleship *Orion*, and had the unusual experience of serving in her for 5½ years, including the greater part of the First World War, as midshipman, sub-lieutenant and lieutenant. He was present in her at the battle of Jutland, and afterwards became assistant gunnery officer. In April, 1918, he was appointed to specialise in signals and wireless.

Between November, 1918, and May, 1919, he was flag-lieutenant to Rear-Admiral E. F. Bruen, in the *Minotaur*, and for which he was made a CBE in the 1941 birthday honours. From 1941 to 1943 he commanded the battle-cruiser *Renown* in Force H at Gibraltar, taking part in several convoys and other operations in the Mediterranean. On promotion to rear-admiral on January 12, 1943, he was appointed flag officer in the Combined Operations Command, a year later he went to Australia as head of the British naval liaison staff which began to prepare for the reception of battle fleet to be based there, and when the British Pacific Fleet was formed at the end of 1944 he was made an acting vice-admiral and appointed vice-admiral on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet. On May 11, 1945, it was announced that he had been appointed to command a battle squadron in the British Pacific Fleet, and the command he held until after the war ended.

From December, 1945, to May, 1949, he was Third Sea Lord and Controller of the Navy, during which period he was promoted to vice-admiral in August, 1946, and in September, 1949, he took up the post of Commander of the Imperial Defence College. He was promoted admiral in 1950 and retired in 1952. From 1952 to 1962 he was chairman of the Television Advisory Committee.

He was made a CBE in his birthday honours in June, 1934, and advanced to KCB in the 1948 new year honours.

He married, in 1919, Marjorie Katherine, daughter of Sir Arthur C. Wilson, of Farnham, and had one daughter. His wife died in 1958 and he married secondly in 1963 Mrs. P. Wilson.

MR G. G. BUNZL

His expert knowledge was, however, not devoted only to the well-being of his own business, but to the British paper industry, as well as to the interests of British industry and particularly British exports generally. He was a member of the British National Export Council, the Export Council for Europe, chairman of the Anglo-American Trade Council, a founder-member of the Overseas Marketing Corporation, and also a senior and highly respected member of many international pulp and paper organizations.

He played an important part in the British Institute of Management, and also in the CBI Overseas Committee, which was well known as a lecturer, including particularly on aspects of East-West trade, and on the international pulp and paper industry. In the interest of his business and his wider concerns, he travelled all over Europe, North and South America and as far afield as China.

GG's interests were not confined to business or to economic affairs. He was outstanding both in his own charitable actions as well as in his energetic work on behalf of a number of charities. For 30 years he was the treasurer of Children & Youth Aliyah Committee for Great Britain and Eire, recognized as one of the major child rescue movements which has brought 190,000 children from over 50 countries to Israel since its inception in 1933. He was also joint chairman of Jewish Child's Day, an organization which helps Jewish children in this country as well as over the world.

But his charitable instincts went much wider. In the 1930s he made a donation of an important piece of new equipment to the Royal Marsden Hospital, and continued to help to secure the modernization of the equipment of that hospital, being at one time chairman of its fund-raising activities.

He also took a very active part in the appeal for a scanner for the Royal Free Hospital. He could be most generous when a particular charity, however small, for example the Chiswick Family Rescue, struck a chord, and he helped in this instance, as the chairman of the Hampstead Child Care Clinic, to encourage others to give generously.

Over and above this, no man who came into contact with him could fail to be impressed by his energy, good humour and ebullience. Although he did not suffer fools gladly, and expressed his views emphatically, he was at the same time a very few people, indeed, could for long take amiss a criticism to which he subjects them.

He is survived by his wife Hannah, whom he married in 1937, and by his two sons and daughters.

£4,200 portrait coup

by the Tate Gallery

By Geraldine Norman. Little room Correspondent. The Tate Gallery has a vice little coup at Christie's yesterday when they acquired a portrait of the artist Gilbert Jackson, estimated at £4,200, for £2,000.

He had noticed that the painting bore the initials of the artist Gilbert Jackson, an interesting enough clue with the words "bears the inscription and the date 1840".

The inscription reveals that the portrait is of Francis Saunders, with the initials F. S. and the name of the artist, Gilbert Jackson, is clearly visible.

It is an attractive, slightly primitive painting. Mrs. Grenville has a collection of such portraits in her house for the sitting. The painting was sent for sale by the Countess of Sutherland.

The portrait is of a young man, with a

SPORT

Football

Return of Hales and Ipswich's wounded encourage Charlton

Norman Fox, Ipswich Correspondent

Spread from the north east to south coast, today's fifth and matches in the 100th FA Cup involve a broad range of interest, with the Ipswich fixture a test that will reveal the eight names in the very even of the competition.

After surviving a difficult season, the most illustrious teams, the last today include one from the first division, but the rigours of the chase have left many a club among the fallers.

Ipswich United, who were relegated last season, are back in the first division, but the rigours of the chase have left many a club among the fallers.

There is one team that stands out above the rest. It is at the bottom of the table, but it is Ipswich, who have done more in any other side to open the year for an unexpected final.

Ipswich and Liverpool have been seen as the two main contenders for a challenge equally difficult.

After looking for the result in Southampton, the unlikely winner will next want to know Nottingham Forest's strategy to take on the Cup success at home to the Ipswich United, and it is a fact that the Ipswich United, who have done more in any other side to open the year for an unexpected final.

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Craig Johnston: Middlesbrough will welcome him back.

Middlesbrough at home to Exeter City and Mansfield respectively. Divisions from the problems of the area are welcome and Arthur Cox, the Newcastle manager, said: "Times are hard up here and football plays a major part in the way of life, which is something we are all aware of."

John Neal and myself are aware of it for tomorrow. Life on the island is not much fun, which is why I hope Newcastle and Middlesbrough do well tomorrow."

Middlesbrough are much happier now that Johnston is fit enough to play. Johnston is fit enough to play. Johnston is fit enough to play.

Triumph of nerve and grit for Miss Knight

By a Special Correspondent

Despite Paul Day, the 1978 champion, saving an astounding 10 match-points against the No. 4 seed, Miss Knight came through to meet the holder, Desmond Douglas, and the European champion, John Elton, recovering some form to contest the other semi-final against the No. 3 seed, Peter Dinkley.

The women who created much of the interest in the Norwich Union English closed championships at Chesham yesterday were the holders, narrowly escaped defeat when she beat the No. 4 seed, Kara White, 21-18, 21-18, 21-18, 21-18, 21-18. She was behind to the whole match, trailed 9-14 in the fourth, and had to save a match-point at 19-20. It was a triumph of nerve and determination for the 23-year-old Cleveland woman who believes much with the title again if she is to gain the last place in England's world championship team.

"At the end I was just praying," she said, "but I knew I had to win. I was already in the world, and I was so tense that at 17-16 in the fourth, she threw the ball up and I was able to win it."

The chances of Miss Knight pulling off another triumph against the odds now look much better. Earlier she had a fine 21-18, 21-18, 21-18, 21-18, 21-18.

Greenidge puts the crowd in good humour and riot squad at ease

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

Port of Spain, Feb. 13

The start of the Test series between England and West Indies, or to be more precise the failure to get to the start, has been a controversy here today, with the first full-scale riot of the tour being narrowly averted. After the match had been got at night, and one of the run-ups flooded, it was a quarter past two when the match was called off.

The first 25 runs only came off the bat of the first batsman, Dilley, of those off Haynes's outside edge. Bottom, with the crowd, was driven and then looked for a big piece of batting, which put the crowd in better humour and led to the riot squad being stood at ease.

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Maradona worth six men and two Pelés

Buenos Aires, Feb. 13.—The Argentine star Diego Maradona was transferred from Argentina to the world record transfer fee of \$5,000,000.

Maradona belongs to Boca, a team which has been playing in the first division since 1974.

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Maradona belongs to Boca, a team which has been playing in the first division since 1974.

Liverpool call up Sheedy and hope to steal a march

Liverpool are expected to give a first league appearance to Kevin Sheedy, today as they attempt to close the gap at the top of the table.

Sheedy, an \$80,000 signing from Hereford United over two years ago, gave his chance because of the injury to the club's left-back, John Aldridge.

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Holland's hopes of Cup final are fading

Par Holland has had the plaster removed from his damaged knee but is almost certainly out of West Ham United's team for the FA Cup final.

Holland, who received the injury scoring against Notts County on January 17, will not follow the club's policy of not playing injured players.

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Cap does not suit record-seeking Elwell

By Keith Macklin

After much anguish and frequent changes of mind, Keith Elwell, the Wolves manager, yesterday decided to put club before country and give up another cap against France next Saturday.

Elwell, who has made 174 consecutive appearances for Wolves, and his pursuit of the club record of 251 would end if he did not play for the club in the league game at Hull on Wednesday.

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Waldo steady in Honolulu, but Watson is better

Honolulu, Feb. 13.—Nick Faldo, Britain, continued his steady form on the United States circuit with a two-under-par 70 in the 100th Open here yesterday.

Faldo, who has been playing in the first division since 1974, was steady in his performance.

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Round of 67 puts Stewart one stroke ahead

From Eric Marsden, Johannesburg, Feb. 13

Low scores and sunshine and low scores cheered competitors in the South African Masters, which started today at the Bishops Cleeve Golf Club.

Stewart, who has been playing in the first division since 1974, was one stroke ahead.

Stewart, who has been playing in the first division since 1974, was one stroke ahead.

Hockey: Whalley and Wilkinson even the score

By Sydney Friskin

Twenty-six players have been called for for England training weekend at Bisham Abbey National Sports Centre, near Marlow.

Whalley and Wilkinson evened the score in the hockey match.

Whalley and Wilkinson evened the score in the hockey match.

Boxing: Irish eyes are smiling with a silver gleam

By Srikumar Sen

There is no getting away from the Irish when it comes to the United States and the Irish boxing scene.

Irish eyes are smiling with a silver gleam.

Irish eyes are smiling with a silver gleam.

Table tennis	Cricket	Rugby League	Scottish Cup, fourth round	Scottish second division	Rugby Union	Rugby League	Hockey	Boxing	Cycling	Villeneuve, mark two	Lacrosse	Squash rackets	Basketball	Real tennis	Squash rackets	Real tennis
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who is playing today at Grandstand, Marcus Rose, England reserve full back, has done a worst for his midweek hamstring twinge, and the flanker, Tol Allchurch, no longer in the England squad, also returns to the Cambridge University side for the first time since he broke his nose in a game against the Royal Navy. David Cooke, the England open side flanker, misses Harlequin's match at London, having a minor calf strain. Mossley, leaving out their new England, centre Nick Jeavons, are at Franklin's Gardens against a Northampton side still apparently beset by injuries to three of the England players, John Horton, John

THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWSGovernment's intention to
sell off shares in
BNOC runs into trouble

By John Huxley

The Government's policy of selling off shares in the state-owned British National Oil Corporation (BNOC) has encountered serious snags.

Although both corporation and Department of Energy officials are working on possible schemes whereby the public could be offered an immediate stake, there are no immediate plans for doing this.

The most intractable problem is the disruptive effect any scheme would have on the dozens of agreements which BNOC has struck with private sector partners in the North Sea.

Mr Hamish Gray, Minister of State for Energy, confirmed yesterday that no particular scheme for a sale of equity was under consideration. However, he reaffirmed the Government's determination to introduce private capital into BNOC at some time in the future.

Powers which would enable the Government to do this are contained in the Petroleum and Continental Shelf Bill, published by Mr David Howell, Secretary of State for Energy, yesterday.

The Bill proposes an increase of £200m in the corporation's borrowing limit to £800m, with

a provision for it to be increased to £1,000m. It proposes a further change in the financial structure of BNOC.

The corporation's links with the National Oil Account would be severed and government financing would come, as with other state corporations, from the National Loans Fund. The Secretary of State would determine the starting debt under the new arrangement.

The absence of any firm proposals to offer an equity stake will disappoint many of the Government's supporters who want to see ministers moving faster to roll back the frontiers of the state sector.

Mr Gray said yesterday that the Government remained committed to the principle of introducing private capital into Britain's North Sea activities. Loans stock or "revenue bonds", whose return would be linked to fields in which BNOC has a share, would also be issued.

The latter initiative does not require a change in legislation. Plans for sale of bonds, probably worth a total of £500m and available across the country, are going ahead. The Government expects the first

to go on sale around the turn of the year.

The Bill would allow BNOC to dispose of shares in subsidiary companies only on the oil exploration and production side of its business. The downstream trading activities will remain wholly in government control.

Sale of shares would require the approval of both the Energy Secretary and the Treasury, and there is provision for the introduction of a profit-sharing scheme for BNOC's 1950 employees.

Mr Gray said that the introduction of the Bill should boost morale among BNOC staff, who have experienced a long period in which they felt the Government's intentions towards the corporation were uncertain.

Apart from enabling the Energy Secretary to alter the financial structure of BNOC, the Bill also amends earlier North Sea legislation.

Existing law is extended to cover gas storage facilities and accommodation installations (such as the Alexander Kieland "floating hotel" which sank last March with the loss of 123 men), and includes installations in cross-boundary fields (reflecting treaty arrangements with the Norwegians).

US energy budget facing big cuts

From Frank Vogl

Washington, Feb 13

President Ronald Reagan has been sent proposals by the Office of Management and Budget to cut US energy policy.

The President is likely to accept most of the proposals and announce them soon. Details of the plans are contained in Budget Office documents, which say that ending domestic oil and gas price controls will unleash free market forces, stimulating conservation and supply efforts and so greatly reducing the need for government involvement.

The Budget Office believes that the free market will guard against unforeseen dangers to the economy and, as a result, it plans to save \$79m (€34m) by scrapping contingency petrol rationing programmes and proposes that the Office of Energy Department's Office of "Emergency Preparedness" be cut to \$2m from \$17m.

Savings in energy department

administrative costs of \$93m could be made on the present \$370m budget, including a cut of \$18m in the \$41m budget for international policy affairs.

This latter cut would result from efforts to "reduce policy contracts and eliminate international energy planning activities."

Reduction of staff would eliminate duplication of State Department and Central Intelligence Agency efforts.

The budget of the main Department of Energy division involved in data collection, forecasting, policy analysis and regulatory controls could be halved to \$61m in the fiscal year that starts on October 1.

But the budget documents, which are mainly concerned with the coming year, also include detailed plans for immediate spending reductions for the rest of the 1981 fiscal year.

The Administration has decided to retreat from government efforts to secure greater energy conservation and rely on free market forces to secure this.

About \$36m would be saved immediately by ending government programmes that assist power companies to change

from oil to coal. The documents simply state: "Coal conversion: eliminate. Utility programmes: eliminate."

Big conservation programmes could be cut by \$453m to \$478m in the coming year. Market forces and existing tax credits made many government efforts here either "superfluous" or imposed "too great a regulatory burden on the public."

Similarly, most government programmes on energy supply were not needed and were wasteful and free market forces would produce the needed developments.

Total spending on the energy supply and environmental programmes could be cut by \$114m this fiscal year to \$482m and \$203m in fiscal year 1982 to \$402m.

The cuts would end numerous government-funded research programmes on geothermal and hydro-power systems, finish all work on short-term storage schemes for energy, and cut sharply work on the environmental and health effects of new energy systems.

Further sharp reductions are advocated in government funding of work on fossil fuels and assorted synthetic fuel systems

with savings set to bring the outlays for the next fiscal year down to \$410m from \$765m.

President Reagan has not backed away from the pledge he made during his election campaign to abolish the Department of Energy and his plans to cut the department's spending may go even further than the Budget Office.

His Administration's views on energy conservation and free enterprise are illustrated in another Budget Office paper dealing with transport.

It proposed that government support of the development of urban transport systems should be cut in the coming fiscal year by \$448m to \$2,402m, then cut by \$1,165m to \$2,200m in fiscal year 1983 and cut by even bigger amounts in later years.

The Budget Office said that it was primarily the duty of local authorities, not the federal government, to pay for these systems and that there were less capital intensive ways to improve urban transport such as car pooling, bus pooling, subscription bus service and cab services.

"Energy savings that can be attributed to mass transit capacity expansion are extremely limited," it said.

Stock markets

FT Ind 493.2, up 3.2
DM 2.2195, down 0.6

Sterling

\$2.2855, down 305pts
Index 103.8, down 0.5

Dollar

Index 101.0, up 0.7
DM 2.2195, up 380pts

Gold

\$493.50, up \$7

Money

3 mth sterling 134-134
3 mth Eur \$ 184-184
6 mth Euro \$ 184-184

IN BRIEF

Societies
eat off
interest rate
challenge

Net receipts by building societies in January were £22m down on the previous month at £446m despite lower interest rates offered to investors and the recent issue of index-linked National Savings certificates ("granny bonds").

Receipts reached £193m, 7.7 per cent up on the previous month. But withdrawals also rose by 10 per cent to £174m.

Mortgage lending by societies in 1980 was £857m against £965m in 1979, reflecting a seasonal trend, while the amount promised to mortgage applicants was £41m down at £2m. The underlying demand for home loans remains strong.

Terminal services

Matthew Hall Engineering has been appointed by the Gas Council (Exploration) to provide project and construction management services for the Gas Council's Rough field on the gas transmission terminal facilities at Eastington, Humberside.

Oilmen contracts

John Mowlem, the construction group, has won two civil engineering contracts, together worth £5.1m, to carry out work related with the Thames Tideway prevention system.

EC loan scheme

EC finance ministers are to meet in Brussels on Monday to discuss arrangements for a Community loan scheme to member countries with a view to payment difficulties.

Chemical strike

Italy's 600,000 chemical workers staged a four-hour strike in protest at rationalization plans by Montedison, which involve 13,000 redundancies.

Motorcycle project

The Peugeot motorcycle subsidiary is to invest 210m francs (£32.4m) over the next five years in new types of 80cc and 125cc machines.

Rupee revalued

The Reserve Bank of India has revalued the rupee for the second time in a month giving 18.90 pence to one pound, an increase of 1.06 per cent.

Laboratories deal

Teaching laboratories worth more than £2m are to be supplied to Iraq by Tequipment International of Nottingham.

Int resin plant

ICI is to set up a joint 3,000 tonnes-a-year resin plant in Iran with Asahi Glass by the end of 1982.

S money supply

The United States narrowly missed money supply, M-1A, of \$500m to \$566,900m in the week to February 4, the new Federal Reserve Bank said. The M-1B aggregate rose \$80m to \$415,100m.

Wall Street down

On the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones industrial average closed 5.03 points down to 931.57. The S & P 500 was 1.22437, and the NYSE SDR was 6.31872.

Rush of
applications
for shares in
Aerospace

By Catherine Gunn

Last minute applicants for the £150m flotation of British Aerospace shares converged on Lloyds Bank in Old Broad Street, London, yesterday.

A queue 400 yards long quickly formed as investors clutching briefcases bulging with applications and covering cheques hurried to be sure of getting in on time.

Lloyds opened its doors early to avoid a stampede and within a minute of the official opening, the lists at 10 am, all the waiting applicants had handed in their applications. The Labour party's declaration that it will rationalize British Aerospace had no effect on the issue.

By midday Kleinwort, Benson, the merchant bank and underwriter, confirmed that the issue was oversubscribed. By yesterday evening, the market was guessing that it was between four and five times oversubscribed.

The guesses had crept upwards throughout the day, together with estimates of what premium on the 150p a share price the 100 million shares might go to when dealings start on Wednesday.

By the evening most market-



Women at Lloyds Bank work through the flood of applications for British Aerospace shares.

men agreed that a premium of 15p was a safe bet and a 20p a real possibility. Jobbers said the shares should trade well thereafter, especially if the new civil aircraft, the 146, gets underway towards the summer as expected.

The basis of the allotment of shares to applicants would be announced on Monday, Kleinwort, Benson said yesterday. The prospectus made it clear that the small investor would be favoured, so the market is

going for applications of up to 100 shares in a bid to get in full, and higher applications getting a scaled down proportion of the shares applied for.

If the issue is as much as five times oversubscribed, dealings next week are expected to be brisk as institutions try to top up holdings. A firm, busy equity market to end the first leg of the account yesterday added extra spice to jobbers' expectations of a good market in British Aerospace.

check the minutes of that board meeting with the statement put out by the House of Fraser directors you will find they do not tally.

Professor Smith was not available for comment last night and Fraser directors were not expected to issue a statement.

"Sir Hugh also told the 'huge number' of shareholders who have asked him for advice to make up their minds on the 150p a share offer on price. His advice comes amid unconfirmed reports that a large firm of Edinburgh stockbrokers have recommended to shareholders to sell half their stakes in the stock market now.

Last night Wood Mackenzie, Bell, Lawrie, MacGregor and Wishart, Brodie all agreed giving such advice. But Scottish financial circles were saying that the advice would not be unsound at the moment.

Laird, who has brought its Fraser stake very close to 30 per cent since it made its offer, cannot buy more shares in the stock market until it has approval from its own shareholders on March 4.

He said that he was waiting for his lawyer before adding anything to the statement.

He added: "I can't release any details of the private meeting of the company, but if you

Four beet
sugar
factories to
be closed

By Hugh Clayton

At least four of the 17 beet sugar factories owned by the British Sugar Corporation are to close before this year's crop is harvested. An announcement will be made in March.

The closures have been decided because the Government has agreed to accept an EEC beet quota for Britain which is lower than the amount which the corporation can now process.

The 17 factories, all in central and northern England, can process 1.25 million tonnes of home-grown beet. Ministers have reversed the Labour Government's policy of expanding home sugar production and have decided to accept a quota of 1.15 million tonnes for British beet against the EEC countries accept similar cuts.

Tate & Lyle, the remaining British refiner of cane sugar, plans to cut capacity by closing its Liverpool refinery this year. Such a closure will lead to the loss of more than 1,000 jobs.

Ministers believe that beet capacity must be cut because of a steady fall in British demand for sugar in the past four years. It has also accepted that almost all of the 1.3 million tonnes of cane sugar which the EEC is bound by treaty to import must be refined in Britain.

The National Farmers' Union will tell the corporation that it will expect compensation for beet growers whose transport costs are increased by the closure of the factories nearest to their farms.

The share offer is equivalent to about 33p for each London

Sumatra share. RIT, Sipef and McLeod Russell have accepted the cash offer, valuing the 53 per cent H & C does not hold at 33p a share of £28.4m.

A spokesman for London Sumatra said the company was still deciding whether to recommend the offer. Mr Thomas Prentice, chairman of H & C, said the offer for London Sumatra and the possible bid for US chemical interests, which has been put at £50m, would probably be financed from cash reserves.

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Dollar gains against
pound and mark

By John Whitmore

The dollar continued to advance strongly on the world's foreign exchange markets, recording further sharp gains against both sterling and the Deutsche mark.

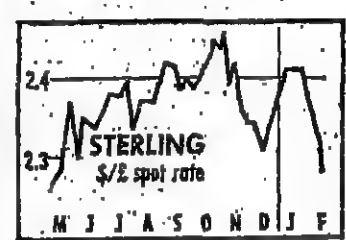
International investors continued to add to their dollar portfolios in the belief that the Reagan Administration will take a tough line on the economy and that dollar interest rates will remain high for some time to come.

To some extent the dollar is now benefiting from a "bandwagon effect". Whether that bandwagon will receive fresh impetus or be stopped in its tracks when the President sets out his plans for the economy next Wednesday remains to be seen.

Yesterday the dollar gained a further 3.8 pence against the Deutsche mark, in spite of substantial West German central bank intervention. The dollar closed at DM 2.2195, making a gain of 34 per cent on the week.

Sterling, too, came under pressure against the dollar for most of yesterday's session, finishing marginally above its lowest level of the day, a net 3.05 cents down at \$2.2855. Over the week the pound has lost nearly 6 cents against the dollar.

Other money market rates were little changed and the general feeling is that they are likely to remain steady now until the final run-up to the Budget.



Sterling has, however, continued to perform well against most other main currencies. Although its value against a basket of currencies slipped 0.5 to 103.8 yesterday, its overall value has remained unchanged over the week.

In domestic markets the weekly Treasury bill tender once again reflected mounting confidence that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, will announce a reduction in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate in his Budget speech on March 10.

Applications for the £100m of three month bills on offer totalling £480m, and the average rate of discount at which bills were allotted fell from 12.42 per cent to 12.23 per cent.

Other money market rates were little changed and the general feeling is that they are likely to remain steady now until the final run-up to the Budget.

Rolls-Royce
to make 460
redundant

By Clifford Webb

Midland Industrial Correspondent

Rolls-Royce is to make 460 of its 3,340 employees at its Ansty, Coventry, plant redundant within the next few months.

A company statement blamed a combination of falling demand for its industrial and marine engines, and the need to improve the group's overall competitiveness in international markets by reducing manning.

Ansty designs, assemblies, and supplies gas turbine engines for ship propulsion, electricity generation, and oil and gas pipeline pumps. It also repairs Rolls-Royce aircraft engines.

It has been hit by a Central Electricity Generating Board standstill on purchases of peak load generating sets and government cuts in defence spending. The strength of sterling has also put it at a disadvantage in overseas markets, which accounts for a substantial part of output.

A company spokesman said: "We hope that a significant proportion of the redundancies will be accounted for by early retirement and voluntary leavers."

A GUIDE TO INVESTMENT TRUSTS-5

Gearing? Discount?

If you have followed this series on the Investment Trust sector, you will by now realise that the industry is unusual in the stock market. For a start, Investment Trusts do not "make" anything. Their assets are typically the shares of other companies which themselves may be engaged in any activity—manufacturing or otherwise—in virtually any part of the world. Those assets are also constantly changing as the managers sell one investment in the portfolio and move on to a new and better opportunity.

The selection of an Investment Trust is therefore important since they are by no means all the same. However, apart from their different objectives and the way in which different managements go about achieving them, there are two technical factors which should be considered by investors in Investment Trust shares: gearing, and discount.

Gearing
In plain terms "gearing" is borrowing. In this instance, it is raising money to be invested on behalf of shareholders.

Investment Trusts are limited liability companies. As such, they are free to borrow money for a range of different forms of capital in addition to Ordinary shares: these include overseas loans, Preference shares, loan stocks and debentures.

Gearing is a means of exaggerating the effects for Ordinary shareholders of share price and dividend movements within the Investment Trust's portfolio of investments. The managers have more money to put into investment for the Ordinary shareholders because they have at their disposal not only the Ordinary capital and reserves of the company but also the borrowed funds.

Thus, if the stock market rises when all the funds are invested, the gains generated

on behalf of the Ordinary shareholder are magnified, or geared. On the other hand, if the stock market is falling, the fall is exaggerated or geared. So the gearing effect can work in either direction, although Investment Trust managers have devised methods to minimise the downside risk, e.g. by investing in fixed-interest securities or by holding cash on deposit at attractive rates of interest.

The extent to which an Investment Trust is geared may therefore influence the view on an individual Investment Trust share. However, an assessment on this basis should not be taken in isolation but is a technical point which calls for the advice of a professional, such as a stockbroker.

Discount
If the market price of an Investment Trust share stands at less than its net asset value, the difference is known in stock market terms as the "discount". If a share price is greater than its net asset value, it is said to be standing at a "premium".

The discount or premium to net asset value fluctuates according to stock market sentiment. It is quite possible, for example, to have a rising net asset value but a static share price. In such a situation, the discount would widen irrespective of the quality of management. To the uninformed this may seem a strange situation but it can create an ideal buying opportunity for the alert investor.

In recent years, Investment Trust share prices have commonly stood at a discount but for the new investor there is the advantage that the greater the discount proportionately more assets are producing income for him.

As with gearing the discount is an important technical indicator; neither should be viewed in isolation.

Next Saturday: Taxation—further good news.

Reprints of the complete eight-part series which makes up "A Guide to Investment Trusts" are available on request from The Secretary, The Association of Investment Trust Companies, Park House (Sixth Floor), 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JJ. Or telephone 01-585 5347.

Derek Harris

Derek Harris

Derek Harris

Derek Harris

Derek Harris

Derek Harris

Derek Harris

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Unit trusts

A package deal for monthly income

Would you buy a unit trust from Ronnie Barker? You would soon have a chance to do just that. The portly comedian has been signed on as media marketing consultant to Arbutnot Securities and begins a series of radio advertisements for them today.

To coincide with the promotion the group is launching its new Maximum Security Plan which is designed to provide unitholders with a monthly income. The money—minimum investment £600—is split between three Arbutnot high yielding unit trusts: the quarterly distribution dates of which have been phased to provide the monthly payment.

The three chosen vehicles are the new Gilts and Fixed Interest Fund, the Preference Share Fund and the High Yield Fund—each respectively yielding 12.4 per cent, 13.3 per cent and 10.6 per cent to provide a combined estimated return of 12.1 per cent gross.

It is an idea which is likely to appeal particularly to older investors and is virtually identical to rival in the unit trust field. Ansbacher Unit Management runs a Monthly Income Fund, also returning 12.1 per cent, but the minimum investment is £2,000 units (£3,100). Alternatively, a judicious spread of building societies can provide an investor with a monthly income too. It is higher at 13.25 per cent gross, but of course, there are no capital growth prospects.

It is a pity perhaps that Arbutnot has not laid a greater emphasis on the equity component of the plan. Mr Michael Barrett, the managing director, agrees that the plan does adopt a "defensive posture"—but, he argues, this is what professional advisers told him their clients would want. If the plan takes off, he said the group might consider another version for the younger generation with a greater equity content.

Margaret Stone

Credit

A gold card temptation

If the television advertisements had persuaded you that an American Express card was the ultimate passport to a wealthy and sophisticated world—Ah, American Express—that's different—I have news for you. That boring old green card is about to be upstaged by Sterling Gold Card, a joint venture between Lloyds Bank and guess who—American Express.

Before you think of applying for your gold card, you had better have a look at your pay slip. If you rely solely on earned income to finance your lifestyle, then, unofficially, I can tell you that you will need to be in the £20,000-plus bracket to pass the vetting committee. The limit on the cards is effectively £6,000—which is where Lloyds comes in. The bank is offering an unsecured overdraft of up to £6,000 to clear the debt at the very reasonable interest rate of 21 per cent over base, now 14 per cent. (As a private customer you could normally expect to be charged 3.4 per cent over base.)

Once you have reached that £6,000 limit on your gold card, that is it. You will have to start slumming it with the plain old green one. Or use the domestic credit cards, Access or Barclaycard, which both will allow credit limits well in excess of £6,000 for the right person. Sterling Gold beats the American Express card on two other points. The free travel accident insurance is doubled to £70,000 and the annual fee of cash plus travellers' cheques facility at Amex offices is doubled to £1,000. The membership charge too is double at £40.

MS

Insurance

'Life offices': reasons for the shake-out

This week yet another company, Prudential Life, resigns its membership of the Life Offices' Association. Its departure follows hard on the heels of Schroder Life's resignation last week. Other companies which can be added to this list are Abbey Life, a leading unit-linked office which left the organization at the end of last year and Crown Life which went last June.

Members of the association have to abide by two main rules. The first is the commission agreement which lays down how much a life insurance company can pay insurance brokers for putting business its way.

The second is the new code of practice, published last month, which dictates selling procedures. On the face of it, it is the commission agreement that the outgoing companies are grumbling about. They want to pay more to brokers which, in turn, should increase their level of business from this source.

But it is not necessarily the rate of commission for selling any particular policy that companies want to increase—although Abbey increased its commission rates by 20 per cent once it had relinquished its membership. There is also the question of volume override commission, which means that once brokers placed a certain number of business with the insurer, the insurance company will pay them a bonus on top of the normal commission rates.

The association is totally opposed to this practice. How it argues, can a broker remain impartial, if it knows that building up business with one particular company will prove more lucrative than spreading it around a number of different companies?

Only time will tell whether this will happen in practice, but even when it will be difficult to quantify how much increase in business written by a life office is attributable to increased commission.

Figures produced by the LOA show new business for life assurance companies in total increased by 15 per cent in 1979, with single premium business up a modest 4 per cent.

Non-LOA unit-linked offices will have matched or done much better than the industry norm.

For 1980, as a whole, for example, Albany Life saw new annual premiums jump by 41 per cent while single premiums leapt by 64 per cent over the previous year. At Trident Life new annual premiums were up 24 per cent and single premiums 77 per cent (after taking out short-term income bonds).

Abbey Life, on the other hand, lagged behind with new annual premiums up 18 per cent, although its single premium business was up 34 per cent, despite its protestations at the time it left the LOA. Generally it seems that there is room for improvement. Indeed, companies that have always been outside the LOA fold report that they are coming up against Abbey Life much more than in the past in the new business field.

The success of Crown Life, which left the LOA in June last year, seems to indicate that a higher commission policy pays dividends. New business last year was substantially better than in previous years, showing a 43 per cent and 53 per cent jump on new annual and single premiums respectively.

All the companies which have left the LOA, says Abbey Life, are relatively small and will therefore find it easier to chalk up higher percentage increases in new business from a relatively low base. Nevertheless, the well established Irish Life has had tremendous success on the new business front since it left the LOA three years ago.

Unit-linked offices spell out the charges they made on their policies—albeit in a complicated way which defies comprehension some would argue. If they choose to enter into a commission war, the net result would be a squeezing of profit margins to fund increased remuneration to brokers, or an increase in the policy charges, which would make them immediately uncompetitive with other life offices.

Life offices and the LOA believe that the resignation of these four unit-linked offices from the trade association will not lead to a commission war between life offices for which the policyholder will ultimately pay.

Nevertheless, a dwindling membership of a trade association can only weaken the LOA's position as the watchdog over this particular industry.

Sylvia Morris

HOFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH



Holidays

Boats with time for sale

Sailing enthusiasts are not known for being a parsimonious bunch, given the cost of their weekend passion, is probably a good thing.

But the head of the most prodigal sailor is likely to be turned by an advertisement which boasts: 'For less than your milk bill you can afford holidays on our own yacht, in the Med, every year for 10 years'.

This particular claim comes from the Hampshire yacht company of Tarquin and concerns the fast-growing practice of time-sharing. The cheapest time-share deal, says the company, works out at £3.64 a week—over 10 years which leads one to think that someone at Tarquin must drink an awful lot of milk.

But is time-sharing really a bargain? The system works by giving you a chance to own a share in a vessel and use it for as many weeks as you choose to pay for. The agreement lasts for 10 years and prices vary according to the time of year in which you want the vessel. At the end of the decade the yacht is sold, and 90 per cent of the proceeds distributed between the members in direct proportion to their original investment.

In addition to the ownership charges, there will be maintenance costs, at least £100 a year, and during 1981, which quite clearly, will rise over the years.

The advantages, says Tar-

quin, are that time-sharing is much cheaper than owning your own luxury yacht, and that the scheme, because it involves ownership rather than simple chartering, will result in the vessel staying in better condition than might otherwise be expected of one which is used by many different people.

Tarquin's is fairly typical of other marine time-share deals we looked at: the cost for a family of four, two adults and two children under 12, who wanted to go on holiday for two weeks from August 24 this year.

Tarquin's only time-share base is in Port Camargue on the Mediterranean in southern France, near Montpellier. The two yachts concerned, in a Sadler 32, a popular seven-birth sporting yacht, would cost £3,885 for the 10-year ownership fee. Maintenance this year would add a further £200. Adding 10 per cent to account for lost interest on alternative investments, this would bring the total outlay for this year to £4,687.

Maintenance for the next nine years rising at 10 per cent a year probably an estimate on the low side, would cost £2,990. The yacht sold for £20,000 at the end of the agreement, this would bring the particular owner a rebate of £1,418. This would leave the final cost for the 10 years at £6,066 or an average of £606.60 a year.

Air fares to Montpellier this year would cost the family a further £320, plus £20 for transfers if they lived in London. So their 1981 holiday would cost

them, exclusive of food, drink, entertainment and fuel, a total of £1,146.60.

The basic ownership fee is inflation-proof, but air fares and maintenance charges are not. And the gap between the total time-share cost and that which one might expect to pay on a charter is small.

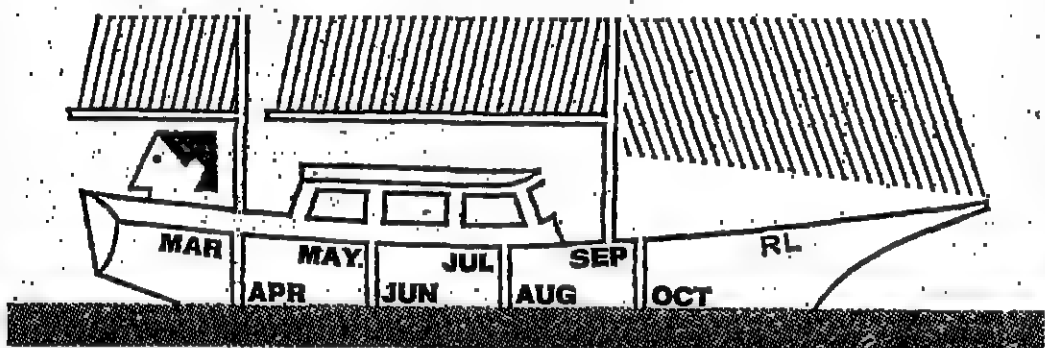
A few phone calls to charter companies advertising in the yachting press soon produced an offer of a new Sadler 32 for £800 for precisely the same sort of family for the same fortnight. With similar transport fees the total cost for this holiday would be around £1,320, £174 more than the time-share deal.

What's more, this particular yacht sails out of the Gulf of St. Tropez, a much more convenient location than Port Camargue.

The same family could also book a Sadler 32 for the same period sailing out of Lefkas, south of Corfu, for £1,642 including air fares and transfers.

So the time-sharers would find themselves making a modest saving, and one which could be increased if there was not a highly experienced sailor among its ranks. Any reputable time-sharer, such as Tarquin, will not hesitate to provide contract documents for consideration by your solicitor. While most time-share agreements are above board, simple caution ought to demand such a check, seriously thinking of taking up a contract.

David Hewson



Motor insurance

The right type of cover when driving abroad

With the cross-Channel ferry operators once again competing strongly for business, taking the car on the Continent may well prove to be a relatively cheap holiday—especially if you are free to travel outside the "peak" periods.

The insurance position if you take your car to the Continent is still illogical—and rather more expensive than is strictly necessary.

If you decide to take your car to the Continent there is no legal necessity to make any special insurance arrangements—provided you are not one of the estimated one in 13 motorists who do not have valid United Kingdom motor insurance.

As a matter of course, your United Kingdom policy—whether fully comprehensive or only third party—will give you the cover required by law when you are in any other EEC country—are kept offshore to avoid value added tax—but Mr Freedman warns that you must be worth at least £25,000 without your house and be prepared to tie up the money for at least three years. He adds that diamonds should not represent more than a fifth of total investments.

On Monday, Scottish Amicable, traditionally a conventional life office, steps into the unit-linked market with the launch of a single premium bond. Money invested in the Capital Investment Bond, minimum £1,000, can be linked to any of the six internal bond funds—equity, cash, property, international, fixed interest and a managed fund—and the usual switching and withdrawal facilities are available.

while you would be within the law, it is most unwise to have such limited cover.

The best plan, therefore, is to notify your insurers in good time of the period of your holiday and the countries which you expect to be visiting. This will enable you to pay an additional premium in return for which your policy will be extended—so that you will have the same cover on the Continent as in the United Kingdom. Your insurers will issue a "green card"—a kind of international certificate of insurance, which should be signed before setting off, by anyone who may drive the car. Also, as part of the deal, your insurers will cover your car for the estimated one in 13 motorists who do not have valid United Kingdom motor insurance.

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economical to arrange continental insurance separately from your main insurance just for the period of your policy. This year, however, thousands of travel agents are selling a rather unusual policy which has been put together by a firm of insurance brokers acting for the Association of British Travel Agents.

One of the reasons why it is unusual is because there are three different sections, with a different insurer for each. First, the Automobile Association provides its well-known 5-Star Service—which consists of the "extra" types of cover for the car which can be important. This insurance is not covered before the end of your holiday.

If necessary, under this section, the AA will locate and send spare parts for the car—although you still have to meet the cost of the parts and any import dues.

If you are camping, you will be able to claim up to £50 for each person for emergency

hotel and food expenses, if your tent becomes unserviceable as a result of accidental damage, or if it is stolen. There are plenty of other useful forms of cover which can save expenditure if you should run into trouble.

There is also a section of the policy, underwritten by the Consolidation Insurance Company of Canada, which covers medical expenses up to £50,000 for each person, baggage up to £600 per person, loss of money and the like. Also included is cover in the event of cancellation or curtailment—of, otherwise, the holiday. This insurance is not covered before the end of your holiday.

The really unusual feature of the travel agents' policy is that the Norwich Union is providing straight motor insurance, with a green card, on a comprehensive basis. This insurance is part of the package and, if you buy the package, you get this cover (and pay for it) whether you like it or not.

Of course, if you take this cover, it means that in the event of an accident on the Continent, the no-claim discount for your annual motor policy will not be affected. Also if in the Uni-

ted Kingdom, you have only third party cover, this package gives you the benefit of comprehensive cover.

There are, however, certain "strings" attached. There is a £25 excess, except for windscreen claims—which probably is reasonable enough. Under a United Kingdom car policy, normally there is unlimited third party cover both for personal injury and damage to property. Under this package, however, the third party property limit is £500,000.

The Norwich Union is only accepting those who are over the age of 24, although it is saying that younger drivers in the party may take their turn at the wheel—with the excess going up to £100 if they should be involved in an accident.

While this package offers some convenience, it does represent an element of "double insurance" and it does not look as though there will be a massive swing away from the traditional pattern of paying an additional premium to one's own insurer and obtaining a green card.

John Drummond

Taxation

Cutting the CTT bill on your home

If your estate consists largely of your house you may have a substantial capital transfer tax problem and little room for manoeuvre. It is much easier to make gifts of small amounts—through the £2,000 per annum exemption or by regular gifts from income—if you have cash.

The first step in most CTT planning is to decide whether you actually have a CTT problem and then whether you want to do anything about it. Anybody with a potential estate of about £50,000 has almost certainly no problem, since there is no CTT payable on estates below that threshold.

So, if you add up all your assets—including your house—is the tax payable significant and worth worrying about? Remember, assets do not suffer from inflation, but your house does. A transfer of a house to a beneficiary, even if it is a gift, will be treated as a taxable transfer.

The capital gains tax position after a transfer of ownership is important. You could end up paying capital gains tax but paying capital gains tax.

If the person who lives in the house is a divorced, separated or widowed mother of the owner, then any appreciation in the value of the property would in any case be free of capital gains tax, after the transfer of ownership. If the transferor is a father in the same position or a married couple, then this transaction could generate a capital gain tax liability.

There are other ways of making gifts if you have a substantial estate but no cash. The problem is that they mostly represent gifts of amounts denominated in cash and therefore do not appreciate in value.

For example, if you wanted to use the £2,000 a year exemption you could borrow £2,000 from the bank each year and give it to the beneficiary. He could then lend it back to you and you could repay the bank loan. The transaction should be documented to this effect and hopefully at your death, the Inland Revenue will accept that the notes are evidence of a real debt against your estate.

Another way of depleting your estate on your death but generating income now would be by way of a "home income plan", normally thought of in connection with low income families. An annuity is purchased from a company which then makes regular payments to you. The income, less mortgage payments of interest, can then be used to generate life insurance transfers—perhaps through the medium of a whole of life insurance policy. At the date of the house reverts to the insurance company reduced.

Finally, here are some practical points. Do use a solicitor for any of these transactions. Not only must they be done correctly but it is essential to discuss these kinds of decision with a professional adviser. CTT may not be the most important problem long term; your future personal security perhaps should concern you more.

death would not be directly reduced, at least it would not increase in value as property prices rise in future years.

However, perhaps a loan would be a better way to freeze the value of an estate in money terms rather than to allow it to increase in line with the value of the house. The owner of the property could lend the amount to the intended beneficiary, who in turn would then use the money to buy the property or a share in it.

The loan would stand as an asset in the donor's estate but it would be for a static amount and from time to time a gift could be made by the donor by way of cancelling part of the loan; this could be done perhaps through one of the exemptions.

Remember that if you make an interest-free loan of this kind and then cancel it regularly each year at the rate of say £2,000 a year using the annual exemption, you do not have an effective tax plan. The Inland Revenue will treat a series of transactions as "associated operations" and it is certain to be treated as a taxable transfer.

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John Drummond

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfre

25KV GHANA INTERCO

Round-up

Diamonds still a rich man's gamble

Diamonds, according to Mr. Michael Freedman, are back in fashion as a hedge against paper investments. The opinion of this 37-year-old New York diamond merchant and head of the Gemstone Trading Corporation (profits last year equal to £782,000) might be regarded as slightly biased.

A former record salesman who has been investing in diamonds for seven years, he has just produced *The Diamond Book* described as a practical guide for successful investing. The cost is a fraction of the price you will need to introduce diamonds into your portfolio and comes at a time when interest in this kind of gem is increasing.

American stockbrokers Thomson & McKinnon are completing subscription for a £13m unit trust based on diamonds and in London former stockbrokers Rowe Ruda have almost completed a smaller but similar trust.

The trusts are likely to run for specific periods, are aimed solely at capital gain and will be liquidated at the end of say four years. For the more adventurous, buying diamonds is possible in the United Kingdom—they are kept offshore to avoid value added tax—but Mr Freedman warns that you must be worth at least £25,000 without your house and be prepared to tie up the money for at least three years. He adds that diamonds should not represent more than a fifth of total investments.

On Monday, Scottish Amicable, traditionally a conventional life office, steps into the unit-linked market with the launch of a single premium bond. Money invested in the Capital Investment Bond, minimum £1,000, can be linked to any of the six internal bond funds—equity, cash, property, international, fixed interest and a managed fund—and the usual switching and withdrawal facilities are available.

The new bond includes the latest in flexibility on the market. It is written as a series of cluster policies—all of which can be treated separately, when it comes to crossing them in and you can "top up" your investment—minimum £1,000—at any time.

Bond charges include a 5 per cent initial fee, although for initial investments under £2,000 there is an extra 2 per cent levy on the amount by which your investment falls short of this figure. The annual charge is 0.75 per cent.

If you are among the one million members of the Provincial Building Society and are facing redundancy, then drop into your local building society for advice. Last week the Provincial announced a series of measures to help the unemployed and those who will soon join the ranks.

Borrowers will be advised whether to tie off the mortgage with existing savings or redundancy payment or not. Other solutions to lessen the burden of the monthly mortgage payment include suspending payment altogether for up to a year, extending the term of the mortgage or switching to an "option mortgage" scheme.

Investor's week

Secondary stocks set the pace in the market

It might not turn into a buying stampede, but the institutional hard hat has been looking distinctly jumpy this week.

The evidence may be scant indeed but there is a growing feeling that the recession has bottomed at last. The question of how long it will stay there remains to be answered. But nervous fund manager are already searching the listings for that elusive "recovery" bargain.

Add in all the talk of Government, U-turn—market professionals say that is the only manoeuvre possible in a cul-de-sac—and it is not hard to see why the FT index has managed five days of consecutive gains, in the first week of a three-week account, the last but one before the Budget.

In climbing from 480.3 at the beginning of the week to close at 493.2, the index has been edging rather than charging forward, with the biggest one-day gain proving a modest 6.6 points on Tuesday after money supply figures which matched expectations. The fact that the

increase in central government spending over 10 months has outstripped forecasts for the full year is neither here nor there if the market believes that the Government is losing the will to keep turning the screw.

But the FT index hardly tells the whole story. The real action has been taking place in the secondary stocks where renewed interest last week has been consolidated this week. There has been some decisive purchasing in the engineering stocks and building sectors enlivened by the abortive "lunchtime raid" on Thursday for nearly 15 per cent of engineers. F. Pratt. Yesterday British Aerospace was dramatically oversubscribed.

More significantly perhaps, ICI has managed to struggle back up to the £3 level despite the fears of a dividend cut when it reports towards the end of the month, while even Fisons has proved that downward ratings do not last for ever.

Just as significantly, brewery stocks hardly turned a hair at

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK				
Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Change	Comment
101p	45p	F. Pratt	39p to 101p	Market raid
465p	290p	London Sumatra	25p to 355p	Takeover bid
485p	328p	Barclays	25p to 408p	Figures due
408p	284p	ICI	4p to 300p	Recovery hopes

Falls				
Year's High	Year's Low	Company	Change	Comment
255p	160p	Manchester Ship	36p to 160p	Bad results
78p	49p	Assoc. Fisheries	8p to 55p	EEC policy talks
247p	212p	Hartbeest	£2 10 to £2 11	Bullion price
71p	75p	Lonrho	8p to 95p	Ex-dividend
430p	247p	Tricentral	10p to 312p	Oil forecasts

news of Allied's decision to shut its Ansell brewery and growing fears that beers, along with tobacco, will bear the brunt of Budget penalties.

Breweries lost their recession-proofing with sagging profits last year, but there are hopes among analysts that a consumer spending revival could turn the tide towards the second half of the year.

Starved once again of a minimum lending rate cut and

bludgeoned by last Wednesday's £1,000m tap stock, which made its debut at a discount on Thursday, the gilt-edged sector wilted somewhat to close the week with marginal losses. Hopes are now back firmly to Budget day for a drop in interest rates, but although gilt may spend some time in limbo as a result of indecision caused by government funding requirements, no one is betting on them going lower.

This Government has mild problems of its own of course and trouble at the pits is probably going to prevent until siasm bubbling over in it. account. But against this a Eym's hint earlier in the week that the Government may get help to battered manufacture could yet prove to represent the turning point for investment in much of the industrial sector.

Meanwhile, banks which have so far been carrying the burden of ailing companies, clients will hardly be muzzled only to crushed by talk of a windfall profits tax, have been perking up sharply ahead of figures.

Richard Allen

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

RECENT ISSUES		Closing Price
American Land Prop 86-97 Cvr 1999 (t)		\$105 1/2
Bell A. 9% Cdn 1999-2005		140 1/2
Danbury Group II Ord (303)		420
Esex Water 8 3/4% Red Prof 1985 (f)		2100
Exchequer 10% Cvd 1985-1991		140 1/2
Exchequer 12% "A" 1994+11		23 1/4
Exchequer 12% B 1998 +11		198 1/2
Lamport 12 1/2% Cvd 1994-2000 (t)		140 1/2
New York Int Trust Spd 90 (42)		114
Oil and Gas Production 2nd Ord (42)		114
Portals 8 3/4% Cvd 1994-2000 (t)		210 1/2
Treasury 12% 1985 (f)		114
Treasury 12 1/2% 1989 A		23 1/4
Treasury 11 1/4% 1985 A 10 1/2		23 1/4
	Last date of issue	
RIGHTS ISSUE		
Arkyll Food (62c)		50 prem
Northern 60c	Mar 27	2 1/2 prem

Issue price in parentheses. \$A = dividend.
 † Issued by tender; * 1/2 paid, a 1/2 paid; b 1/2 paid; c
 Fully paid; d 2/3 paid; e 1/2 paid.

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